Hafa Adai!

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Gunshots heard in Papago but suspects not found. PAGE 5

20 teams so far committed to MMAC. PAGE 9

Ex-CHCC board chair passes away

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The first chairman of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s advisory board passed away in Hawaii yesterday after battling a lingering illness the past 10 years.

Torres

Joaquin S. Torres passed away early Monday morning, Saipan time (Sunday, 7:40am Hawaii time). According to the youngest of Torres' six siblings, former representative William Torres, Joaquin Torres' heart stopped at around 3am in Hawaii but he was revived for a short period before he finally suc-

See EX-CHCC on Page 4

MVA: Japan carrier inspects Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Executives of a Japanese airline visited Saipan a couple of weeks ago for a site inspection and the Marianas Visitors Authority remains confident that a successor to Delta Air Lines and its regular flights from Japan to Saipan would be found soon.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion remains mum on the identity of the carrier that would take over the route that Delta Air Lines is abandoning in May 2019, but did confirm that officials of the Japanese airline visited the island

See MVA on Page 4

MARK RABAGO
Seafaring Traditions Program's John Castro, Oliver Salas, and Jonathan Ogo Jordan work on the canoe house at the Civic Center beach in Susupe last week.

DCCA program to complement 500 Sails

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Seafaring Traditions Program is not out to compete with the 500 Sails organization that aims to build 500 traditional canoes by 2030.

DCCA Secretary Robert H. Hunter said the Seafaring Traditions Program under the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture aims to perpetuate the Chamorro and Carolinian traditional skills of open-ocean seafaring, canoe building, and celestial navigation.

"We are working in unison with 500 Sails to make sure this important aspect of our culture continues. The

See DCCA on Page 4

6TH SWEEPSTAKE AWARD

MHS choir wins anew at TBMF

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

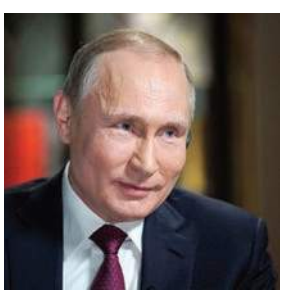
The Marianas High School Rhythm 'N' Harmony prevailed once again at the 14th Annual Tumon Bay Music Festival, garnering the top prize a record-setting fourth year in a row and their 6th Sweepstakes Trophy so far.

Last Saturday, during the Tumon Bay Music Festival awarding ceremony, it was announced that the Marianas High School singing group was awarded, for the fourth consecutive year in a row and the sixth overall, the Sweepstakes Trophy award.

See MHS on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Congress' effort to stabilize the nation's insurance markets is faltering amid escalating demands.
PAGE 13



FOCUS
Vladimir Putin looks more invincible today than at any other time in his 18 years in power.
PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
T'Challa still rules the box office, even with the fresh rivalry of another Walt Disney Studios release.
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

NMI Judiciary gets anti-human trafficking grant

Dr. John A. Martin, right, is pictured discussing the scope and goals of the CNMI Judiciary Human Trafficking Initiative with Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of the CNMI Superior Court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Judiciary is a recipient of a grant award from the State Justice Institute. The grant will fund an initiative to build judicial and community capacity to address human trafficking by increasing understanding about the types and dynamics of labor and sex trafficking and how the courts and community should respond.

Numerous local and federal government agencies and non-profit organizations will be participating in the nine-month effort including all components of the Judiciary.

A diverse group of justice system and community partners will be participating such as representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, Division of Youth Services, NMI Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Micronesian Legal Services Corp., Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

John A. Martin, Ph.D., director of the Human Trafficking and the State Courts Initiative, serves as the project's consultant and facilitator.

He has over 40 years of experience, working with courts, justice, and human services organizations and recently has worked with the Unified Courts of Guam and the Hawaii Judiciary on similar anti-human trafficking efforts.

Martin was on Saipan until March 9, conducting a needs assessment and gathering information integral to formulating the Judiciary's strategic priorities for addressing human trafficking.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro said about Martin's work in the CNMI, "He will first focus on building court and community capacity to identify trafficking victimization, and then improving the efficiency with which trafficking cases are adjudicated."

A third and equally important area of attention will be the development of court and community infrastructure to address victims' needs. ***(PR)***

PRE-COMPETITION PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yonsei Academy students and Ji Hye Yun, a director of Yonsei Academy, have their picture taken at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport before leaving for Guam to participate in the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

Bridge Capital donates $26K to various charities

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

ERWIN ENCINARES

Representatives of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs pose with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), and Reps. Francisco Aguon (R-Saipan) and Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) after a proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor.

Bridge Capital LLC last week donated a total of $26,000 to various charities in the CNMI, including government programs that keep ancient Chamorro traditions intact.

Bridge Capital president John Baldwin said one of the things the company is happy to do is step in to fulfill the needs of the community.

"…It's wonderful being a part of the family here in the CNMI. Even though we are going through a time of prosperity compared to a few years ago, there are always needs," he said.

Bridge Capital donated $5,000 to the First Lady Diann Torres Foundation; $3,500 to the Center for Living Independently CNMI; $3,500 to the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture for their Seafaring Traditions Program; $5,000 to the Saipan Little League Association; $5,000 to the Rota Little League Association; $1,500 to the Hyatt Regency Golf Classic as a sponsorship; $1,000 to the Triathlon Association of the CNMI; $1,000 to the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math science fair of the Public School System; and $500 and 500 Bridge Capital bags to the Saipan Mayor's Office's spay and neuter campaign.

"We give to the community because we live here and we love the community," Baldwin told *Saipan Tribune*. "We love giving to arts, culture, and to sports; we set aside a percentage of our companies income each year to give away," he continued, adding that the company was in support of the community regardless of the age.

John Castro, an arts counsel for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, particularly with the Seafaring Traditions Program, remained grateful to Bridge Capital for their donation.

"…[Seafaring] is the very start of our history. From being from the Oceania area, travelling through water, it is how we got here. We have learned to adapt to these places and we want to continue perpetuating this tradition to our younger generations and we hope that it continues," said Castro, who works with Sesario Sewralur, son of master navigator Mau Piailug.

Probable cause to charge 3 in 'ice' lab case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found probable cause yesterday to charge three of the four men arrested in connection with authorities' crackdown against an alleged clandestine methamphetamine lab on Saipan.

At a preliminary hearing, Manglona determined that the U.S. government has provided sufficient evidence for probable cause to file conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine charges against Vincent David Cabrera Jr. and Eugene Blas Repeki and the charge of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine against Rick U. Omar Jr.

The U.S. government called to the witness stand CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officer Dee Liza Udui, who testified about the circumstances that led to the arrest of the four suspects.

The fourth defendant, Sidney Capelle Kani, waived his right to a preliminary hearing. Colin Thompson is the court-appointed counsel for Kani, who is being charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

At the continuation yesterday of Omar's detention hearing, Manglona granted assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe's motion for Omar's continued detention pending trial.

This developed as Manglona raised some concerns over the suitability of Omar's proposed third-party custodian.

The proposed third-party custodian's boyfriend has been implicated in the case, according to the prosecution.

The court earlier ordered the continued detention pending trial of Cabrera, Repeki, and Kani.

Manglona ordered the four defendants to appear at the status conference on March 28 at 1:30pm.

No arraignment has been set as the four defendants are being charged in a complaint. As of yesterday afternoon, no indictment has been filed against them.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Customs officers arrested the four and searched the clandestine "ice" laboratory in a hotel room and at a Dandan home last Feb. 25.

ASL made easy

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be hosting a second Basic American Sign Language class on Friday, March 16, from 4pm to 5pm in the JKPL Children's Room.

This class, like the previous class in January, will teach basic American Sign Language through interactive and engaging activities. In addition, because the class is practical, participants are guaranteed to use their new knowledge in everyday life. ***(PR)***

2017 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK
2 YEARS IN A ROW
OUT WITH THE OLD
IN WITH A NEW
*0% DOWN
*2.9% FINANCING
2018
Tucson
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*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for mare details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is 2,500. While supplies last. Tucson GL 2WD total price is $22,995. Financed at 2.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $350.34 or $162 per paycheck based on 15% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $21,020.40.
HYUNDAI

Bishop Camacho to be laid to rest today

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The islands' Catholic Church is inviting the whole community to witness the burial of bishop emeritus Tomas Aguon Camacho, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's first bishop, today.

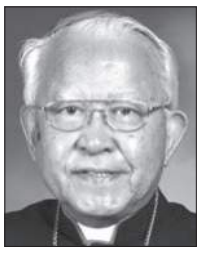
Today, the burial mass for Camacho will start at 8am, after the arrival of the body from the Commonwealth Health Center, and would end at about 12pm after the body is buried.

Public viewing will start at 8:30am and will end at 10am.

The official burial Mass will start at 11am and will immediately be followed by the burial ritual.

Camacho will be buried inside the Chalan Kanoa Cathedral in the crypt beneath the sanctuary.

According to Fr. Jason Granado from the San Vicente Parish, the ceremony was organized to be as simple as possible, as per Camacho's wishes. There will be no government recognition whatsoever to keep the ceremony as solemn as possible.


Camacho

Camacho passed away on March 5 at the Commonwealth Health Center after a lingering illness.

Camacho served as the diocese's bishop from 1984 to 2010.

He was the 2008 *Saipan Tribune* Person of the Year.

Camacho was born on Sept. 18, 1933, and was ordained priest on June 14, 1961, at the age of 27.

On Nov. 8, 1984, then Pope John Paul II appointed him as the first bishop of the newly created Roman Catholic Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Camacho was consecrated on Jan. 13, 1985, and served as head of the diocese from 1984 until his retirement on April 6, 2010 and lived his remaining years at his residence in Kannat Tabla.

MHS

From Page 1

The same group won the same award in 2017, 2016, and 2015. They also won the trophy in 2012 and 2013.

The Sweepstakes Trophy is given to the ensemble that gets the highest rating from all categories, both choir and band ensembles.

The Marianas High School choir went up against four different choirs.

During this part of the TBMF, schools, churches, and community choirs perform a 20- to 25-minute repertoire as either an adjudicated or showcase (non-adjudicated) ensemble in front of an audience filled with friends, family, and the community-at-large at KAHIDA, Guam Plaza Resort & Spa.

MHS Rhythm 'N' Harmony came head-to-head with the Majesty Choir, Majesty Elementary Choir, La Voce-the Voices of SSHS, St. John's High School Glee Club, and the Magnifico Choir.

MHS Rhythm 'N' Harmony includes Clarisse Torio, Mikaella Cunanan, Charley Sablan, Jenine Perena, Lesly Ibarra, Eden Conner, Rinisa Torres, Aira Velasco, Donna Galvez, Angela Barbo, Naomi Billimon, Miguel Aninon, Leonard Manuel, Clayton Izuka, Roland Balajadia, James Reyes, Khristian Itaas, and Jefferson Cunanan.

The Marianas High School Rhythm 'N' Harmony Glee Club wasn't the CNMI's only representation at the TMBF from March 1 to March 10.

The MHS Chorale, composed of Miguel Aninon, Charisse Ramos, Clarisse Torio, Jackylyn Mae Batu, Erica Tubera, and Macy Manzanares, also represented the CNMI. The group won gold in the Small Ensemble event.

The Yonsei Academy on Saipan also sent a delegation that also won at the festival.

DCCA

From Page 1

two programs complement each other. We are focused on ensuring that the traditional skills are not lost—those being the traditional canoe and canoe house making and all of the skills that those entail, from rope-making to weaving to carving to tool-building, and, of course, the traditional methods of celestial navigation," he said.

Hunter said 500 Sails recognizes the history of the traditional canoe culture, building, and seafaring, but is focused on transitioning these traditional skills into a modern context, with the production of vessels using contemporary materials and with a commercial aspect to their activities that include transportation and freight.

The CCAC canoe-building effort, for its part, is simpler than what 500 Sails is looking to accomplish—to ensure that the traditional skills and knowledge are not lost, are recognized, and showcased for residents and visitors alike.

The Seafaring Traditions Program is led by John Mamis Castro and Antonio Piailug.

Castro has experience with previous voyages and with canoe construction, and has substantial knowledge of the history of the CNMI, according to Hunter.

Piailug's career has centered on constructing and sailing traditional seagoing vessels. The son of master navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug, he has led many cross-Micronesia voyages and is knowledgeable about all aspects of canoe construction.

"They work with a handful of permanent volunteers and, of course, we have invited anyone who would like to dedicate time to the projects to visit the site and speak to John or Antonio," said Hunter.

The rest of the team includes Mike Naputi, Oliver Salas, and Jonathan Ogo Jordan. They are currently working on constructing the canoe house, which, according to Piailug, can fit two 40-foot sakmans.

Hunter said the Seafaring Traditions Program is taking it step by step and its first project doesn't even involve the construction of a *sakman* (traditional canoe)

"It's beginning with the construction of a canoe house at Civic Center beach and with the construction of a large Chamorro *sakman*. But the program will continue with the construction of Chamorro and Carolinian canoes, canoe houses around the islands, the coordination of events around the canoes and the revived canoe culture, and with the development of students and with educational activities and materials related to the activities. So there is a longer-term investment in mind here," he said.

The cost so far is basically for personnel and some small equipment, said Hunter, adding that the Department of Public Lands has designated the property for the project at Civic Center beach for use, and most of the materials that are natural have not come at any cost.

"We are working as partners with 500 Sails. We're sharing some personnel resources and supporting facets of each others' projects. As we develop our programs, we look forward to co-coordinating voyaging events here in the NMI and participating together in Marianas and Micronesia-wide events, as well as international events," he said.

One of the major activities coming up in 2020 is the Festival of the Pacific Arts in Hawaii, said Hunter.

"We are looking to having our first large *sakman* ready to participate in that event. The reemergence of the practice of traditional open-ocean voyaging has swept across the Pacific. There are many significant events that take place throughout the Pacific that are associated with voyaging. We will have the means to participate in the future through these programs," he said.

The 500 Sails organization aims to reclaim the maritime tradition in the Marianas by getting 500 traditional Chamorro and Carolinians *proas* on the water in the Marianas again. By matching the number of *proas* seen on the water in 1565, 500 Sails will have restored the Marianas' maritime traditions.

EX-CHCC

From Page 1

cumbed at 7:40am.

"My brother has been enduring the battle…for quite a few years. He is a strong person who fought for almost 10 years," said William Torres in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Joaquin Torres' wife, Dianne Verdejo, confirmed the news with *Saipan Tribune* in a phone call. Verdejo declined to provide more details.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, who famously butted heads with the CHCC board in the past, remembers Joaquin Torres as someone who prioritized the needs of CHCC during his tenure as board chair and even beyond his term.

"We are very saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Torres and we send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to Dianne and his family. Mr. Torres was very passionate in his role as chairman of the first CHCC board. He recognized and understood the challenges of CHCC. He wanted the best for CHCC that, even after his term as a member of the board ended, he remained one of the biggest supporters of adequate funding for CHCC. He will be missed," said Muña.

John DelRosario, a *Saipan Tribune* columnist and former publisher and editor, worked with Joaquin Torres for over 10 years.

"Even before he left for Hawaii, we used to call one another up. We share discussions on important issues, and I was very fond of his sharp intellect. He was very sharp and analytical, so we threw each other ideas until we agreed or agreed to disagree. I am going to miss his wonderful intellect and wonderful sense of humor," said DelRosario over the phone.

Joaquin Torres is survived by his three children—Joseph, Susan, and Neil—and four of his six siblings—William, Ray, Juan Torres, and Maria Torres Persson.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Joaquin Torres was also a delegate of the first CNMI Constitutional Convention back in 1975 as well as a long-time director of Labor for the CNMI. In the private sector, he was a ranking executive of Tan-Holdings Corp.

William Torres said that Joaquin Torres' life would be celebrated with a Mass every morning at the Kristo Rai Parish Church at 6am and would be held until Joaquin Torres' remains arrive, which is anticipated this weekend.

MVA

From Page 1

two weeks ago.

"They did a site inspection and met with [the Commonwealth Ports Authority], [Customs & Border Protection], [Transportation Security Administration], and the ground handlers and they've expressed a strong interest in flying to the CNMI," he said.

He cautions, however, that the new airline's flights would not happen overnight and pleaded for patience.

"The new airline still has to get approval from [the Federal Aviation Administration], [Department of Transportation], and the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau. It's a long process to get approved," he said.

In the meantime, Concepcion said that charter flights will bridge the gap between the time Delta Air Lines stops its flights to Saipan and the time the new airline begins its regular route to the islands.

"Our immediate goal is to secure charter flights to fill the gap when Delta suspends flights until we get a regular flight service. They're already a couple of airline interested in doing charters to fill that gap. There are negotiations ongoing between travel agencies in Japan and the airlines. So the MVA is just sort of facilitating the discussion and we're giving whatever support they need. I have our Japan team on the ground in Tokyo meeting with them daily," he said.

Concepcion reassured tourism stakeholders that the pull-out of Delta Air Lines will not be the death knell for the Japan tourism market—once the CNMI No. 1 source market for visitor arrivals.

"We're going to be fine. Long term, the Japan market is going to be fine. They're very interested and they're eyeing the CNMI as their next international destination," he said, alluding to the new Japanese carrier.

On LCCs

Concepcion also talked about the CNMI's chances of attracting low-cost carriers to fly to the islands and fill in the gap that would be left by Delta Air Lines.

At the moment, though, this is not possible, as Japanese LLCs don't have ETOPS, which is short for Extended-range Twin-engine Operational Performance Standards.

ETOPS is a rule that permits twin-engine aircraft to fly routes which, at some point, are more than 60 minutes flying time away from the nearest airport suitable for emergency landing.

"Their issue is they don't have ETOPS. So they're not able to fly on open water for too long a distance because their aircraft is not certified for ETOPS. A lot of their issues are investment because it's not cheap to get ETOPS," he said.

Concepcion said one way of convincing Japan LLCs to invest in ETOPS is by partnering with Guam and Palau in presenting a unified front when it comes to promoting Micronesia as a whole.

"I think partnering with Guam and Palau [is key]. These are three destinations you can fly to in Micronesia. It's short haul, three hours to Palau from Tokyo, for instance. If they made that investment, it's not just an investment to fly to Saipan, you can fly to three destinations—Saipan, Palau, and Guam. I think that's our biggest selling point when it comes to joint promotion to the airlines," he said.

Delta Air Lines announced in early February that it would be ending flights to Saipan and Palau from Narita on May 6, 2019. It is reportedly withdrawing from Micronesia to focus on their U.S. mainland route expansion. Earlier this year, the carrier also announced ending flights to Guam.

Gunshots heard in Papago but suspects not found

Gunshots were heard in Papago and in Kagman last Sunday but no suspects were found, the Department of Public Safety confirmed yesterday.

DPS spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard said a DPS police officer on patrol heard the gunshots in Papago at 4:30pm.

Shepard said the officer alerted DPS dispatch, prompting officers to do an extensive patrol of the area.

No suspects were found and no additional shots were heard.

DPS later gave the area the all-clear.

A second incident then occurred in Kagman, Shepard said, when DPS dispatch received a call at 6pm about gunshots being fired in the area.

Officers responded to the scene and also did an extensive search.

"No armed suspects were found, no additional shots were heard, and Kagman was given the all-clear," Shepard said.

The DPS spokesperson reminded the public that if they hear what they believe to be gunshots, they should not investigate on their own but call 911.

She said DPS will investigate immediately.

With rumors circulating on social media about alleged shooting incidents, DPS on Sunday night issued a statement in its Facebook account to inform the community and to dispel any rumors that there is no active shooter incident on the island. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Public invited to 'Tupperraiser'

March is CNMI Women's Month. The community is welcome to participate in all the events lined up this month. As part of its celebration of CNMI Women's Month, Tupperware is partnering up with the CNMI Women's Association to help fund the reconstruction of the Women's Center.

Tupperware will be accepting orders and 40 percent of profits from sales will go toward the Women's Center, and help fund programs and services that benefit women.

Tupperware consultant Del Lieto is inviting the community to place Tupperware orders by emailing dlietocao@gmail.com or by calling 287-4335 (Del) or 788-8486 (Pat).

The last day to submit orders and payments is this Saturday, March 17. You may also visit the Carolinian Affairs Office grounds from 9am to 1:30pm this Saturday, March 17, to place orders in person. "Samples" of Tupperware products will be on display.

The brochure could be found by going to the CWA Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen/ or visiting http://catalog.tupperware.come/2018/fundraiser/spring/.

For more information, call CWA at 233-9411, email commonwealthwomenassociation@gmail.com, or visit https://www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen/

Member of the CNMI Women's Association and its partners work tirelessly to broaden the base of financial support for the CWA's mission, and its programs and services that benefit women. ***(PR)***

'CLI open house was eye opening'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

An open house held last Friday at a center that teaches high school graduates with disabilities how to live independently also gave Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) new insights.

"It opened up our eyes," said Palacios. "There certainly are members in our community who needs these kinds of programs to function. I am happy and I am glad I took the time to stop by," he said, adding that the Legislature owes the Center for Independent Living a "sustained contribution from the local resources that we have."

"We will be looking into doing things along those lines," he added.

The Center for Independent Living, which has three officers (executive director Susan Satur, Nieves Camacho, and Maria Pangelinan), is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and caters to individuals who have mental and physical challenges. The CLI, according to Satur, is visited by 20 to 25 individuals with disabilities, known as consumers.

Over 60 consumers frequent the office. The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority brings the consumers to CLI.

Satur noted that the office is composed of donated items such as books, computers, furniture, art supplies, and even gardening tools. Satur noted that most of the books in the mini-library at the CLI were donated by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

The CLI was visited Friday by over 250 people, including Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Fr. James Balajadia, and members of the Legislature.

Palacios, who visited during *Saipan Tribune*'s coverage of the event, said in a quick interview that he wishes for the Legislature to support the center after seeing the consumers who served guests, used the computers, and maintained their own consumable garden.

"…She had invited us and the members of the Legislature to come to their open house and I appreciate it, not only for inviting us, but for us to see what the center is about and what it does for the members in our community," he said.

According to Satur, the CLI currently functions through federal funding of $95,000 annually.

Satur has requested the CNMI Legislature for a van in order to teach clients how to do their own shopping.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. DBA: Club C

Cook – Full Time (1)

Requirement:
High school graduate, GED or equivalent plus two (2) year work experience as a cook. Preferable one with experience in Western, Japanese, Korean and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast pace service environment. Able to multi-task and flexible to work days, evenings, weekends and holidays. Final interview may include a skill test. This position requires examination and clearance for Food Handlers Certificate before hire. Food Handlers Certificate must be valid at all time during employment.

Salary Range - $9.00 - $10.00

Anticipated starting date of Employment: October 01, 2018
Anticipated closing date of employment: September 30, 2019
Interested applicants may pick up an application at our HR Office located within Kanoa Resort, Susupe Beach Road from Monday to Friday between the hour of 10:30AM to 5:30PM. Applications must be supported with resume, diploma or certificate and a valid photo I.D.
Applicant must be eligible to work in the U.S.

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*Terms & conditions apply. 24 month contract required for the Galaxy S7 or Galaxy J5 Pro on the $50 postpaid plan. 12 month contract required for the Studio J8 or Grand XL on the $50 postpaid plan. Online purchases are for new activations only. Credit check required. While supplies last. See stores for details.

Center for Living Independently hosts open house

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

An office that seeks to teach high school graduates with special needs with life skills on how to live independently hosted an open house yesterday.

The Center for Living Independently, or the CLI, hosted its open house at its office on Capital Hill, at house 1366, with the goal of educating high school graduates with disabilities several household skills to achieve at least partial independence for everyday life.

CLI CNMI executive director Susan Satur, which picked up the position last November, told *Saipan Tribune* that the CLI teaches students how to cook, clean, and more.

"We teach them cleaning skills and garden skills. We have a consumable garden. We spend a lot of time outside mowing the yard," she said, adding that those who frequent the office usually have a disability in some way.

"We try to educate them on how to live alone or how to live so that they are not a burden to a family member," she said.

Besides the skills to look after oneself, the office also allows the students to entertain themselves and even teaches them basic office skills.

"We also do arts and crafts. After we do all the morning activities, sometimes we relax. We have computers, so we teach them how to use emails [and] how to use the computer," said Satur.

The CLI office is at House 1366 on Capital Hill, at the corner of Anatahan Drive and Guguan Drive.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA [1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of the Minutes
   a. December 21, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
   b. January 10, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
   c. January 31, 2018 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. ISA
   d. LIA
   e. SICPP
   f. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. U.S. Department of Education Monitoring Report
2. Head Start/Early Head Start Program:
   a. Head Start Grant Application Narrative and Budget
   b. Early Head Start Grant Application Narrative and Budget
   c. Head Start/Early Head Start 2017-2018 Self-Assessment Report and Action Plan
   d. Head Start/Early Head Start 2017-2018 Community Assessment Report
   e. Head Start/Early Head Start 2018-2019 Cost Allocation Plan
   f. Head Start/Early Head Start 2018-2019 Training and Technical Assistance Plan
3. Early Intervention Program Part C Grant Application
4. Special Education Program Part B Grant Application
5. Swimming for All Proposal
6. Proposed Public Notice of Rules & Regulations as Final:
   a. Child Abuse & Neglect
   b. Repeal of Praxis I
   c. Compensation Plan
   d. Alternative Certification
      i. For Teachers
      ii. For Chamorro, Carolinian Language Heritage Studies (CCLHS)
      iii. For Career and Technical Education (CTE)
      iv. For Early Childhood Infants and Toddlers
      v. For Early Childhood Pre-K
      vi. For Instructors
7. A&E Design for Joaquina M. Rabauliman Head Start Center
8. Proposed FY 2018-2019 BOE-PSS Budget
9. Certification and Licensure Matters
   a. CLO Report 2018-002
   b. CLO Report 2018-003
   c. Proposed Amendments to Certification Regulation

VI. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

CNAS looking for wild bee colonies

The College of Natural and Applied Sciences at the University of Guam needs the public's help in locating wild bee colonies.

Chris Rosario, research associate with the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center at CNAS, has been surveying bees in Guam and in the region. Funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Honeybee National Survey has been extended for another year.

Rosario would like assistance from the public in locating wild (feral) bee colonies in Guam, especially if they are causing a problem for neighborhoods or homeowners.

He would like to remove the problem bees and give them a new home in a hive. When removed from the site they will be placed at UOG research and education centers and will support ongoing research.

"The more we are able to relocate feral hives and place them at farms and research centers around the island, the more we will be able to promote Guam's fledging bee keeping industry," said Rosario.

Individuals, government entities, and private businesses are welcome to contact Rosario regarding domestic or feral bees at 487-1640 or via email rosarioc1640@gmail.com.

On April 4, the Guam Beekeepers Association will hold its first meeting of 2018. All bee enthusiasts are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at the Agriculture and Life Sciences Building, Room 104, University of Guam on Wednesday, April 4, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. The agenda will include information on possible grant opportunities for experienced beekeepers to train agriculture professionals to teach farmers and ranchers the basics of keeping bees.

For more information about bees, visit cnas-re.uog.edu/bees. ***(PR)***

Chris Rosario checks the hive of a local beekeeper in Santa Rita. OLYMPIA TERRAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Liberation Day Committee meeting

The 2018 Liberation Day Committee invites all interested individuals to join its organizational meeting on Wednesday, March 14, at 10am at the Saipan Mayor's Office. For more information, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-5997. ***(PR)***

Saipan Community Church turns 70 on Easter Sunday

The CNMI's oldest Christian church is celebrating its 70th year in April 1 and Saipan Community Church senior pastor Josh Slater said a special guest will be on island to mark the milestone.

David Stephens, the son of Rev. Ed Stephens who founded the church in 1947, will attend the church's Easter Sunday celebration. Slater said the younger Stephens hasn't been on island since he was 4.

The Easter Sunday celebration starts at 6am with a sunrise service, followed by breakfast, and at 10am the church will celebrate its 70th year with Stephens, who is expected to also preach.

Saipan Community Church is in Susupe across the Mobil gas station and beside the Susupe Beach Park. ***(PR)***

Roadside tribute today

Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association invites all AlumKnights, Knights, faculty, staff, administrators, parents, families, and friends to pay tribute to the late bishop emeritus Tomas Camacho today, March 13, 2018.. Wear blue and meet at 7:15am near the Naked Fish parking grounds for the roadside tribute. The president of the AlumKnight Association, Charles Cepeda, has offered to prepare a banner for this occasion. ***(PR)***

Philippine consular outreach

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile consular outreach on Saipan on March 13-15, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Note that all e-passport applications require the personal appearance of the applicant. Please wear proper attire (i.e., shirt with collar). For more information and confirmation, call (670)233-6293 and ask for Mel Santos. ***(PR)***

Free business seminar for veterans & spouses

The CNMI Military/Veteran's Affairs Office and the Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar called "Reboot to Business" at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Azucena Room on March 26, from 9am to 4pm, presented by Dennis Kwak, director, Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Pacific. To register, contact Velma Del Rosario at 664-2650 or visit https://sbavets.force.com/s/. ***(PR)***

CUC UPDATES

Water interruption on Tinian on March 17

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on the entire island of Tinian on Saturday, March 17, from 8am to 5pm.

The purpose of the interruption is to complete the installations of two 8-inch gate valves in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s main distribution water line and to make the necessary system upgrade at the Maui II Pump Station.

As a result of the installations and system upgrade, CUC will be able to supply extra volume of water to the island of Tinian.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(CUC)***

Power interruption on March 17 and 18

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, March 17, and Sunday March 18, from 6am to 11am, on Saipan.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize primary lines and allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace eight 45-foot wooden poles with eight concrete poles along Chalan Pale Arnold Road on Lower Navy Hill. The pole replacement task is a sub-project of the CUC Hazard Mitigation Project aimed at strengthening and hardening the power grid through the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete ones.

Since the start of the project in September 2015, 345 of 787 wooden poles have been replaced.

No water wells or wastewater lifts station will be affected.

Travelers commuting northbound and southbound on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in the area of Lower Navy Hill are asked to exercise caution when traveling through the working areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

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McKeown keynotes 24th judicial conference

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge M. Margaret McKeown was among the presenters at the 24th Annual District Conference held at the Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall last Saturday.

McKeown delivered the state of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals address and served as a panelist, along with lawyers Steven Pixley and Catherine Cachero, on the topics of ethics and the organization.

McKeown also talked about the changing ethical landscape in litigation.

In her address, McKeown, who chairs the Ninth Circuit Pacific Islands Committee, talked about the special relationship between the Ninth Circuit and the Pacific jurisdictions of the CNMI, Guam, Palau, and Federated States of Micronesia.

McKeown, who talked about some of the things that the Ninth Circuit is doing in terms of training island judges and lawyers, recounted a recent report of U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona about the CNMI, its culture, the legal landscape here, the lawyers, and some of the judicial issues that they face.

In an interview, McKeown highlighted how busy the Ninth Circuit and the district courts are—too many cases but few judges. "So we are hoping that we will be getting some more appointments as time goes on," the judge said.

McKeown also talked about the measures the ninth circuit is doing to deal with potential harassment and bullying issues in courts. She said that U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. and Ninth Circuit Judge Sidney R. Thomas recently appointed members of a special ad hoc committee to deal with this issue. McKeown sits on both committees.

"We're looking at solutions and ideas in making sure that the federal courts have a very healthy and productive work place environment," she said.

In her presentation on ethics and professionalism, McKeown cited folk and rock songs to illustrate the importance of collegial relationships and the importance of relationship between the court and attorneys.

In particular, she talked about when the attorneys are in dispute over witnesses and documents and how they might think about using mediation as means of settling disputes, as opposed to just using the formal court mechanism.

McKeown is president of the Federal Judges Association, on the board of the ABA Rules of Law Initiative, and chair of the ABA Latin America and Caribbean Council. She was appointed to the Ninth Circuit by President Bill Clinton and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1998. She was a White House Fellow in 1980-1981, serving as special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior and special assistant at the White House.

Vince J. Seman gave the opening remarks at the conference and served as moderator.

Manglona, who welcomed the presenters and participants, delivered the state of the District Court address, noting in particular the groundbreaking ceremony last Dec. 7 for the construction of a new courthouse.

Manglona said the Drug Offender Re-Entry Program had its first graduate last December and another one early this year.

In 2017, the judge said, the court extensively revised its local civil rules.

"It is a privilege and pleasure to serve as chief judge for this district, in no small part due to the contributions from everyone who works with or for the court. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to provide justice to our community," Manglona said.

NMI Bar Association president Charles Brasington talked about the NMI Bar, while Criminal Justice Act committee chair Bruce Berline reported on the CJA panel.

David Addington, senior vice president general counsel, and chief legal counsel of the National Federation and Independent Business, talked about advising small businesses. Addington and David Burger also talked about NFIB, small business issues and taxes.

Guam attorney Nelson Xu discussed types of visas and business immigration law on CW program.

Guam flag-raising ceremony honors veterans

HAGATNA, Guam—The weather cleared up long enough yesterday for the flag-raising ceremony on the lawn of the Guam legislative building. The Guam Legislature this month honors veterans from the island's various motorcycle clubs.

Several members from the Guam Hawgs, Veterans of Guam Motorcycle Club, Chelushiip Guam, Trix71, Harley Owners Group, Island Thunder, and others attended the ceremony, which is held every month to honor the men and women who have served proudly as members of the U.S. military.

The inaugural Veterans Commemoration Flag-Raising Ceremony was held in November f last year. The next flag-raising ceremony is slated for Monday, April 2, 2018. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members from the Guam Hawgs, Veterans of Guam Motorcycle Club, Chelushiip Guam, Trix71, Harley Owners Group, Island Thunder, and others attended the flag-raising ceremony on the lawn of the Guam legislative building yesterday.

Full restraint on defendant, assures he will get credit for time served

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court will give Cling Philip Kaipat credit for time already served in custody after being slapped with a six-year prison term by the Superior Court last November for burglarizing the house of Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

At a status conference last Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that Kaipat will receive federal credit from the time of his conviction in November 2015 up to when he is sentenced in the federal case.

Manglona gave the assurance after assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, requested that the final version of the presentence report in Kaipat's case be amended to include the words "credit for time served" in the local cases.

Dr. Jacob X. Chavez, a clinical psychologist from the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Missouri, appeared by telephone at the conference.

Manglona noted that the U.S. Marshal had submitted a request that full restraint be imposed on Kaipat. The restraint was supposed to be limited, but the U.S. Marshal asked for full restraint based on their observation of Kaipat that morning. Manglona granted the request for full restraint.

Colin Thompson, the court-appointed counsel for Kaipat, informed the court that he was unable to complete the review of the presentence investigation report with Kaipat.

Thompson stated that sentencing Kaipat would not go forward based on his experience over the last week.

Chavez gave an assessment based on his communication with Backe. He had some questions about Kaipat's medications.

Thompson said if Kaipat does not have any emergency medical needs, then after restoring him to the prescriptions from Chavez, they could see in a couple of weeks if they are able to proceed with the sentencing or take some other course.

Manglona reset Kaipat's sentencing to March 27 at 9am and remanded him into the custody of the U.S. Marshal. Manglona said Kaipat shall remain on full restraint.

Last November, Kaipat entered a guilty plea in federal court for possession of a gun that he stole during the burglary at Govendo's house.

Kaipat, 21, pleaded guilty to possession of a stolen firearm.

In the Superior Court case, Kaipat pleaded guilty to burglary and theft as part of a plea deal. He also admitted to violating the terms and conditions of his probation in two previous criminal cases.

Last November, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced Kaipat to a total of six years in prison. The judge gave him credit for time served.

Kaipat has been in custody since Nov. 5, 2015.

The six-year prison sentence, however, will run concurrently with the sentence in Kaipat's conviction in his case in federal court. It means that he will serve the six years in prison within whatever jail term the federal court will impose on him.

On Nov. 5, 2015, Kaipat burglarized the house of Govendo in Dandan and stole a watch, Ka-Bar hunting knife, and $500 in U.S. currency.

20 teams so far committed to MMAC

The Marianas March Against Cancer is still two months away, yet organizers are already poised for another big event—20 teams have so far committed to join the fight against cancer.

"We have had a great start into this year's event with events and fundraisers filling up our calendars left and right, but the most exciting thing about this whole process is that we currently have 20 teams committed compared to last year's number of 18," said MMAC 2018 Team Recruitment chair Catherine Attao-Toves.

This year's teams include:

- Team Triple J Lancherus (Triple J and Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School)
- Team Bodig
- Team Bridge Capital/Marianas Young Professionals (MYPros)
- Team CHADIC (Cancer, HIV, AIDS and Diabetes Illness Coalition)
- Team CNMI Government/Ayuda Network
- Team Docomo Pacific/Ol'Aces
- Team Faiye
- Team Hopwood Middle School
- Team IPI Dolphins (Imperial Pacific International and Marianas High School)
- Team IT&E/Saipan Southern High School
- Team Joeten Eagles (Joeten Enterprises and Grace Christian Academy)
- Team Marianas Health Services
- Team MCS Knights (Mount Carmel School)
- Team NMC/LDTF (Northern Marianas College and Lady Diann Torres Foundation)
- Team NMIFA (Northern Mariana Islands Football Association)
- Team Pacific Islands Club
- Team PSS/SPC (Public School System Central and Saipan Paddling Club)
- Team Talaabwogh Stars
- Team Tan Holdings/Kagman High School
- Team Tribe Marianas

Attao-Toves noted that Team CHADIC will be the first team from Tinian to join MMAC.

"It's very exciting to welcome Team CHADIC from Tinian to take on this challenge of joining our fight against cancer, and we are definitely looking forward to welcoming them to the MMAC track on event night. MMAC is a Commonwealth-wide event, and we encourage everyone from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to join this cause," she said.

The next MMAC team captains' meeting will be today, March 13, starting at 5:30pm in the Commonwealth Cancer Association office conference room on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

For more information or to sign up your team for the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer, email mmacteams@gmail.com or follow the Marianas March Against Cancer Facebook page at facebook.com/MMAC2018. ***(PR)***

MMAC fundraisers in full swing

The Marianas March Against Cancer fundraising season is in full effect as the community's 20 teams gear up for a full calendar of events for the next two months before the annual 12-hour event on May 11-12 at Hopwood Middle School.

"We're in the second week of March, and our teams have already been active in their fundraising efforts. You can tell that this work means a lot to our teams and our steering committee as we get ready for the big night in May," said MMAC 2018 committee chair Bobby Cruz.

On Thursday, March 15, Team Bodig will be holding its second coin drive at the Atkins Kroll Toyota intersection from 4pm to 6pm. They will be holding another coin drive on Thursday, April 12, at the same intersection.

On Friday, March 16, Team PSS/SPC (Public School System Central and Saipan Paddling Club) will be holding its coin drive also at the Atkins Kroll Toyota intersection from 4pm to 6pm.

On Saturday, March 17, Team NMC/LDTF (Northern Marianas College and the Lady Diann Torres Foundation) will be having its "Spike for a Cause" Volleyball Tournament at the NMC south field from 9am to 5pm. Registration is $25 per team, and the deadline to register is this Thursday, March 15, 2018. For more information, contact Queanna Sablan at queanna.sablan@marianas.edu.

On Friday, April 13, Team NMC/LDTF will have a fundraising booth at the always-exciting NMC Charter Day from 4pm to 10pm.

Also that day, Team Talaabwogh Stars will be holding a happy hour fundraiser at Joe's Bar. More details to be provided soon.

From April 16 to April 22, Team IPI Dolphins (Imperial Pacific International and Marianas High School) will be holding its 2nd Annual "Hits for Hope" Softball Tournament at the Capital Hill Softball Field. Registration is still ongoing, but there are only 20 slots available. Entrance fee is $150, and it is on a "first come, first serve" basis. Contact Edilynn at 285-7921 or Julia at 588-6612 for more information.

On Saturday, April 28, Team IT&E/SSHS (IT&E and Saipan Southern High School) will be holding its first annual Race for Life. The event features an exciting island scavenger hunt. More details to be provided soon.

On Sunday, April 29, Team NMC/LDTF will be holding its second annual Brunch for a Cure at Giovanni's Restaurant of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. More details to come.

There are also several teams with special ongoing fundraising efforts.

Team Triple J Lancherus (Triple J and Chacha Oceanview Middle School) will be donating $1 for every iced tea or drink special sold in the Triple J family of restaurants: Tony Roma's, Capriciossa, Truong's, Surf Club, and Bubba Gump. They will also be donating $25 for every vehicle sold in the Triple J dealership.

Team NMIFA (Northern Mariana Islands Football Association), in collaboration with Shirley's Coffee Shop, will be donating 10 cents for every iced tea sold in the restaurant's Susupe and Garapan locations.

"March is already off to a rolling start, and we see this momentum continuing through April as well. Our teams are dedicated to this fight, and we hope their work inspires our community to join our collective fight against cancer," said MMAC 2018 committee vice chair Carline Sablan.

For more information or to sign up your team for the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer, email mmacteams@gmail.com or follow the Marianas March Against Cancer Facebook page at facebook.com/MMAC2018. ***(PR)***

'CNMI govt fails to pay its Medicaid share match since start'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Since Day 1 of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., or since Oct. 1, 2011, the CNMI government has not paid its local Medicaid match to CHCC, according to CHCC chief financial officer Derek Sasamoto.

For the next fiscal year, Sasamoto said that uncompensated care is projected to cost the corporation $15.5 million, while CNMI Medicaid share, which is a 45-percent share, is $14.6 million," Sasamoto said in his report at the board of trustees Wednesday night.

CHCC director William Cing, in a conference call, said CHCC should do all it can to retrieve uncompensated care and the local share of Medicaid cost for its upcoming budget.

"I think that's exactly the point we have to drive in for this 2019 budget hearing again. If you subtract all those bad debts and uncompensated care, Medicaid payment, we are down to $43 million and we don't have a balanced budget," he said.

CHCC legal counsel Nancy Gottfried noted that because of the unbalanced budget brought about by the government not paying its local Medicaid share and not funding uncompensated care, the board of trustees should really make an effort to attend the next budget hearing and show its support for CHCC management.

CHCC director David Rosario also updated the board that he has yet to get a response from Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) on the uncompensated care issue as the lawmaker is currently off-island.

According to CHCC records, the Commonwealth Health Center incurred nearly $14 million in uncompensated care for uninsured patients in fiscal year 2016 alone, and every year absorbs millions more in Medicaid services that are not reimbursed by the local government.

In the FY 2018 budget, CHCC requested $16 million to pay for indigent care, but the Legislature provided just $825,000.

MCS MUSICIANS SHINE AT TBMF MCS

Mount Carmel School congratulates her Knight musicians for their performance at the recently concluded Tumon Bay Music Festival, under the guidance of the school's band teacher, Julian Greening. Leyonne Tolentino earned a bronze medal for his clarinet solo and Michelle Kim and Semi Jang earned a bronze medal for their flute duet. Heechan Kim took home a gold medal in piano performance.

VOX KNIGHTS ROCK PGFC MCS

Mount Carmel School congratulates her VOX Knights for rocking the recent regional competition for the Primary Grade Forensic Competition. K-2 Division: Donray Barcinas (4th place, Impromptu), Remiegem Melchor (4th place, Impromptu,), and Jaze Enzo San Nicolas (5th place, Readers Forum final). 3-5 Division: Oscar Bien Buenaflor (1st place, Readers forum quarterfinal), Heleyna Dela Santa (3rd place, Readers Forum quarterfinal, 5th place, Readers Forum semifinal), Mikaehla Paige Mendoza (4th place, Impromptu final), Sarah Angela Melchor (4th place, Impromptu semifinal, 4th place Readers Forum quarterfinal), and Kiana Cecilia Sablan (2nd place, Impromptu semifinal).

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

What to make of Kim's offer to talk nukes

Maybe it's President Donald Trump's "fire and fury" threats and coarseness with the leader he calls "Little Rocket Man." Maybe it's the squeeze of international sanctions. Maybe it's both. But after years of brinkmanship and missile tests, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appears to be signaling willingness to talk to the U.S. about rolling back his nuclear weapons program, and halting missile and nuclear tests while negotiations are ongoing.

South Korean envoys wrapping up a two-day visit with Kim announced the news. If genuine, the development represent a remarkable about-face by the North Korean leader, who within the last year has exploded what was widely believed to be a hydrogen bomb, and has tested intercontinental ballistic missiles meant to have U.S. cities within range—New York, Washington, D.C. and Chicago.

So far, the Trump administration's reaction has been measured. "For the first time in many years, a serious effort is being made by all parties concerned," Trump tweeted Tuesday. "May be false hope but the U.S. is ready to go hard in either direction!"

We share the skepticism. Kim and his predecessors have played this game of freeze and thaw before: Pyongyang dangles the promise of denuclearization, only to renege. North Korea agreed to abandon its nuclear weapons in 2005 during the so-called "six-party talks," then restarted its program three years later. During the Obama administration, Pyongyang in 2012 agreed to halt nuclear testing. Ten months later, ballistic missile testing resumed, followed by another nuclear test.

In all, Pyongyang has carried out three underground nuclear detonations and test launches of more than 40 ballistic missiles since 2014.

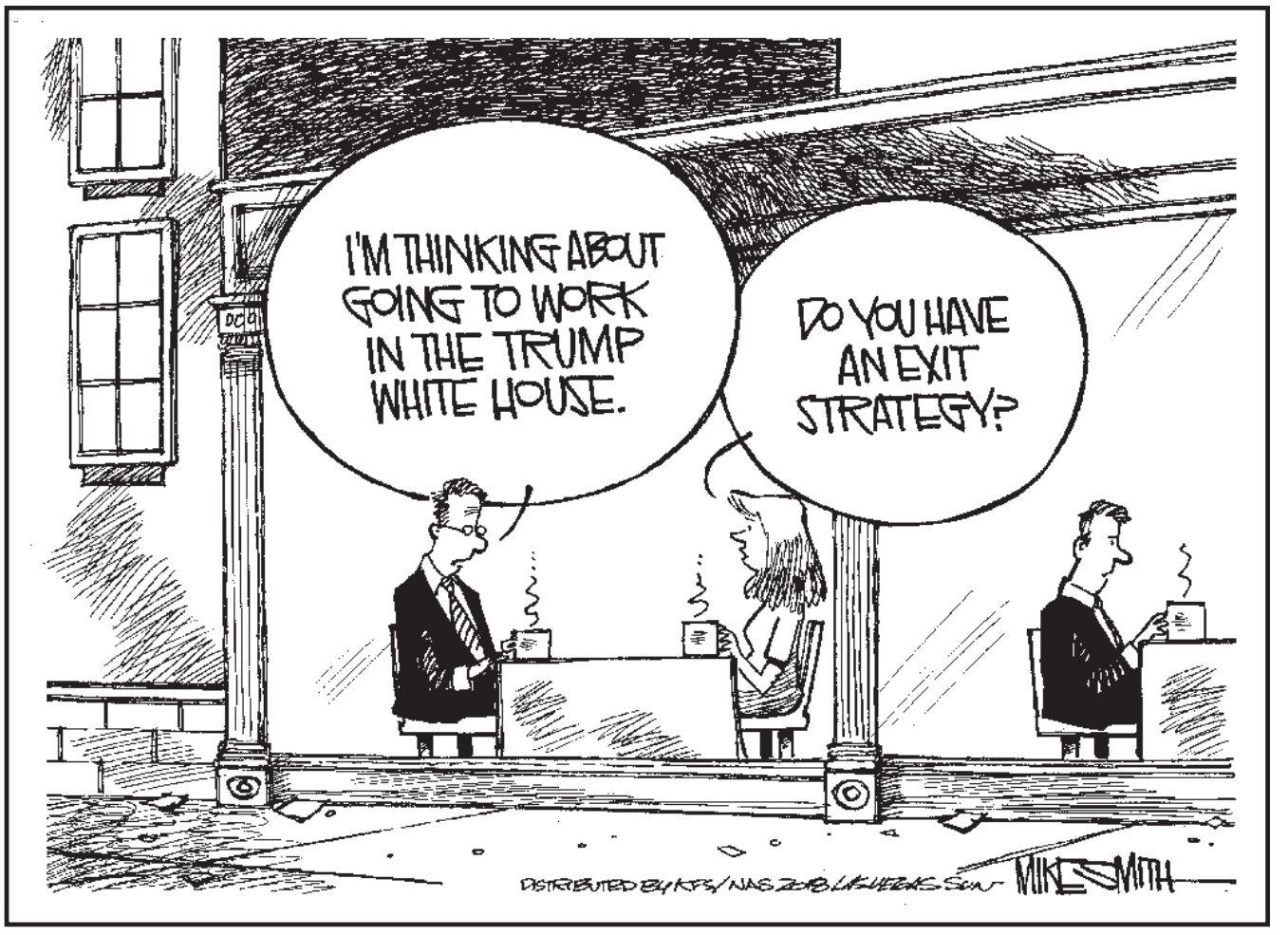
So Washington should proceed cautiously, in keeping with U.S. wariness about the rapprochement gelling between North and South Korea. That flirtation flourished during the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, most notably when athletes from both countries marched together during the opening ceremonies under a unification flag.

Skepticism about North Korea's offer was reflected Tuesday in remarks by Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley Jr., head of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. Ashley said Kim "shows no interest in walking away from his nuclear or his ballistic missile programs. Additional missile launches are a near certainty, and further nuclear tests are possible."

Pyongyang would like nothing more than a scaling back of sanctions as a prelude to talks—but Trump should decline any such demand. The prospect of sanctions removal should be in play only when the world sees an end to North Korea's nuclear program.

The North Korean regime's motives have always been consistent, no matter which member of the Kim family has been at the helm. Stay in power, get the 20,000 American troops deployed in South Korea to leave the Korean peninsula, and ultimately bring South Korea under Pyongyang's rule. That should always inform America's approach to

See KIM'S on Next Page


I'M THINKING ABOUT GOING TO WORK IN THE TRUMP WHITE HOUSE.
DO YOU HAVE AN EXIT STRATEGY?
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/NAS 2018
MIKE SMITH

'Great Firewall of China' neuters internet dissent so Xi can rule for life

By MARKOS KOUNALAKIS
Special to McClatchy

Markos Kounalakis, Ph.D. is a senior fellow at Central European University and visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. Contact him at markos@stanford.edu.

Dictators hate a challenge to their rule. That's why China uses its vast policing and advanced technological resources both to arrest individuals and to disappear from public view any protest words, phrases, images or symbols that might be seen as threatening the state. The kinds of things that, if unchecked, can potentially overthrow a regime.

One of the high-priority targets of China's security systems today? Winnie the Pooh.

Yes, Pooh Bear is a danger to the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese state, and, most importantly, President Xi Jinping.

Xi should be feeling pretty confident these days, as China prepares to change its constitution to rid it of presidential term limits. Not since Chairman Mao Zedong will China have had a more powerful and unchallenged leader. But the power of Pooh must not be underestimated.

Why Pooh and his media parent company, Disney? Popular protest in countries where speech is controlled often finds expression in seemingly innocent ways as well as through symbols loaded with hidden or ironic meaning — from blue Smurfs in Poland in the late 1980s to yellow rubber duckies in contemporary Russia, Serbia, and Brazil.

The absurd directly challenges the entrenched.

In China, an inspired citizen saw a resemblance between Xi Jinping and the cuddly, befuddled Pooh and posted it on Weibo — a Chinese version of Twitter. The picture of an oversize Pooh benevolently sitting in a car instantly ricocheted around People's Republic of China social media. It was quickly interpreted by the Chinese public as mocking an official image of Xi Jinping in a car reviewing a People's Liberation Army formation.

The Chinese state, communist party and President Xi — China's "core" leader — are now seen as the PRC's holy trinity. They must be considered one single solitary and infallible unit with perfectly aligned interests. Any attack or mockery of Xi is thus also considered an attack against the party and the state. Therefore, it is potentially punishable by all the tools and methods available to the state.

It's not officially declared policy that Pooh or any other Disney character is an anti-China agitator. But the reality is that the Chinese state actively censors subversive words from being searched on the carefully controlled and firewall-protected internet. The China Digital Times dynamically crowdsources phrases that are blocked online, an ever-changing list that recently included the following:

- Long live the emperor.
- Disagree.
- Personality cult.
- The wheel of history.
- Xi Zedong.
- Incapable ruler.
- Rule the world.
- Great men sent from heaven.
- Emigrate.
- 1984.

Information sovereignty is China's goal. That means being able to decide and control what its population reads or sees. Chinese authorities have been astute students of the Soviet Union's demise and collapse. They have understood that free-flowing information and state counternarratives are powerful and effective at undermining a state's legitimacy.

It may seem simplistic and naive today, but in the pre-internet era, radio broadcasts with jazz music and alternative, credible news programming could infect the minds of an otherwise programmed people with visions of liberation and dreams of democratic governance. That's why the Soviets put so much effort and expense into jamming shortwave radio signals and programming — the kind I also produced for Radio Sweden International in the 1980s.

Total information control proved impossible. The populations of Eastern Europe and the USSR knew that there was an alternative to their political oppression and economic suffering. It took a good 74 years for the Soviet Union dissolved, but the slow drip of truth eventually helped corrode the Iron Curtain.

China is on an economic tear, boasting an astronomical annual growth rate with high future financial growth targets. It has successfully lifted hundreds of thousands of its people out of poverty, in part, as President Donald Trump has rightly argued, thanks to huge American and European trade deficits. As long as the country stays economically viable and financially underwritten

See CHINA on Next Page

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PROS:

Einstein's long career filled with the pithy quotes of a skeptic

By WILL HAPPER
Tribune News Service

Will Happer is a professor of physics, emeritus at Princeton University and member of the CO2 Coalition. Readers may write him at 258 Jadwin Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544

PRINCETON, N.J.—Albert Einstein would almost certainly have been a global warming skeptic if he were alive today. Many distinguished, contemporary scientists are skeptics too.

We are lucky that Einstein left a rich legacy of pithy quotes that reveal how he would probably relate to today's cult of global warming alarmists.

Take the oft repeated propaganda that 97 percent of scientists support global-warming alarmism.

Quite aside from the falseness of the claim, Einstein would have remembered the famous attack on himself, "A Hundred Scientists Against Einstein," published in Germany in 1931. His response was, "If I were wrong, one would have been enough."

His view of groupthink was summarized in another comment: "In order to be a member of a flock of sheep, one must, above all, be a sheep oneself!"

Or take the oft repeated statement by climate alarmists, most of whom have little real knowledge about any science: "The science is settled!"

Science, and especially a scientific topic as complicated as the Earth's climate, is never settled. No credible astronomer, for example, would ever say we know everything about the universe. As Einstein put it, "We still do not know one thousandth of one percent of what nature has revealed to us."

Einstein himself had shown that Isaac Newton's wildly successful law of universal gravitation had major deficiencies.

For example, Newtonian gravitation had no room for the gravitational waves, whose existence, at exactly the level Einstein predicted, was first demonstrated by my Princeton friends, Joe Taylor and Russell A. Hulse, for which they received a richly deserved Nobel Prize in 1993.

Most importantly, Einstein would have paid close attention to how well the establishment theory of global warming agreed with experiment. He famously stated: "No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right. A single experiment can prove me wrong."

The earth has done the kind of experiment Einstein had in mind. It has warmed at a much slower rate, two or three times slower, than models have predicted.

To make matters worse for alarmists, no one knows how much of the relatively small warming is due to increased carbon dioxide.

After all, quite similar warming was observed more than a century ago when CO2 could not have played a role. The alarmist narrative has been proven wrong by experimental observation.

With his reverence for observational fact, Einstein would have been repulsed by the Orwellian demonization of CO2 as "carbon pollution."

Satellites show that the modest increase of CO2 in the past few decades has produced a measurable greening of the Earth, especially in arid regions.

Plants "breathe in" CO2 and "exhale" oxygen. Commercial growers add as much CO2 as they can afford to their greenhouses, to improve the quality of their flowers, fruits and other plant products. Adult humans breathe out about two pounds of the "pollutant" CO2 per day.

Over most of geological history, concentrations of atmospheric CO2 have been much higher than those today. Both plant and animal life were more abundant when the atmosphere was enriched with three or four times more CO2 than today's levels.

Climate alarmists are having a difficult time justifying their claims with science.

The Earth stubbornly refuses to warm as quickly as establishment models predict. Extreme weather is not becoming more frequent. Sea levels are rising at about the same rate as they did in the 1800's. Crop yields break previous records year after year.

Rather than address honest scientific concerns, alarmists attack skeptics as "deniers," a word deliberately chosen to vilify the person, along with CO2.

Einstein was subject to similar attacks, by envious, prejudiced contemporaries. His advice on how to deal with this was: "Weak people revenge. Strong people forgive. Intelligent people ignore."

Q: Would Albert Einstein be a global warming skeptic if he were alive today?

CONS:

Absorbed by his own work, Einstein would have dodged climate change debate

By WHITT FLORA
Tribune News Service

An independent journalist, Whitt Flora covered the White House for The Columbus Dispatch *and was chief correspondent for* Aviation Week & Space Technology *magazine. Readers may write him at 319 Shagbark Road, Middle River, MD 21200.*

BALTIMORE—Albert Einstein was too busy discovering the building blocks of the universe to spend much time or effort dealing with something as mundane as climate change.

Although climate change is a national obsession for us ordinary mortals, it likely wouldn't concern Einstein greatly or take much of his time if he were among us today.

To consider that he would bother to be a climate change skeptic is like thinking Babe Ruth would stoop to being a batboy or Tiger Woods a caddy ... almost unthinkable.

To make sure he had enough time and mental energy for his major projects, Einstein cut out nonessentials, and took minimalism for his lifestyle.

He even gave most of his Nobel Prize money to his wife. He rarely wore socks or suspenders. He couch surfed when he traveled. When he was scheduled to visit a group of prominent scientists, he emerged from the third-class train car to greet them. A man of simplistic tastes, indeed.

But he knew well how to distinguish right from wrong.

For example, concerning truly big things, soon after Einstein learned of the atomic bomb's use in Japan, he advocated for nuclear disarmament.

He formed the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists and backed Manhattan Project scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer in his opposition to the hydrogen bomb.

Between 1905 and 1925, Einstein truly transformed humankind's understanding of nature on every scale, from the smallest part to that of the cosmos as a whole. His name became synonymous in the public mind with the word "genius."

Even today, we're still exploring Einstein's universe. The general theory of relativity, for instance, was the first major theory of gravity since Newton's, more than 250 years before, and the results had a huge effect worldwide.

The London Times called it a "Revolution in Science" and a "New Theory of the Universe." Einstein began touring the world, speaking in front of crowds of thousands in the United States, Britain, France and Japan.

In 1921, Einstein won the Nobel Prize in physics, but for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect. This law explained how and why some metals give off electrons after light falls on their surfaces, and played a key role in the development of modern electronics, including radio and television.

In one paper, he stated that light travels both in waves and in particles, which he called photons. This idea is an important part of what is called the quantum theory. Another of his noted papers was about the motion of small particles suspended in a liquid or gas called Brownian motion. It confirmed the atomic theory of matter.

Einstein also demonstrated that absolute time must be replaced by a new absolute: the speed of light.

Einstein totally dismissed the "old physics." He saw a world where space and time are relative and the speed of light is absolute. It was then thought that space and time were absolute and the speed of light was relative.

Most famously, he asserted the equivalence of mass and energy, which led to the famous formula E=mc2.

In 1910, Einstein answered a basic question: "Why is the sky blue?" His paper solved the problem by examining the cumulative effect of the scattering of light by individual molecules in the atmosphere.

Working at that level, you leave it to lesser minds to explain why the Earth is getting slightly hotter—or it isn't.

This coming Wednesday, March 14, is the 139th anniversary of Einstein's birth.

At Princeton University where he spent many happy days before his death in 1955, students, alumni and friends will celebrate Einstein Day by donning Einstein masks and wigs.

Chances are the celebratory throng will contain many people who believe in the urgency of slowing climate change and many so-called "deniers" who see the issue as an outright hoax.

Don't expect outbursts of profanity and fisticuffs. Princeton, unlike some of its Ivy brethren, still believes the proper role of higher education is allowing students to harden their intellects on the forge of competing ideas.

KIM'S

From Page 10

Kim, particularly when he clutches an olive branch.

It's been 64 years since the Korean War ended in a stalemate, dividing the peninsula into communist North and democratic South. The specter of conflict has loomed over the region ever since. The world would gleefully welcome a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. But it also is all too aware of Pyongyang's promises of the past, and the hollowness of those promises.

(c)2018 *Chicago Tribune*

CHINA

From Page 10

by the West, the only thing the Communist Party and Xi need to stay in power is to control regime-challenging democratic messages and ideas.

The 21st century gives any state sophisticated tools for filtering information and finding malcontents. Monitoring IP addresses and social media accounts allows the Chinese state to track and control its population. Managing the message, and the messengers, prevents subversives from spreading revolutionary ideas or organizing anti-state protest. "The Great Firewall of China" effectively keeps out news, information, and ideas that challenge the State-Party-Xi triumvirate. While Americans protest for net neutrality to keep an anarchic flow of information moving freely within the U.S., the Chinese state is practicing and preaching net neutering of its citizens to ensure China's domestic tranquility and maintain the state's legitimacy.

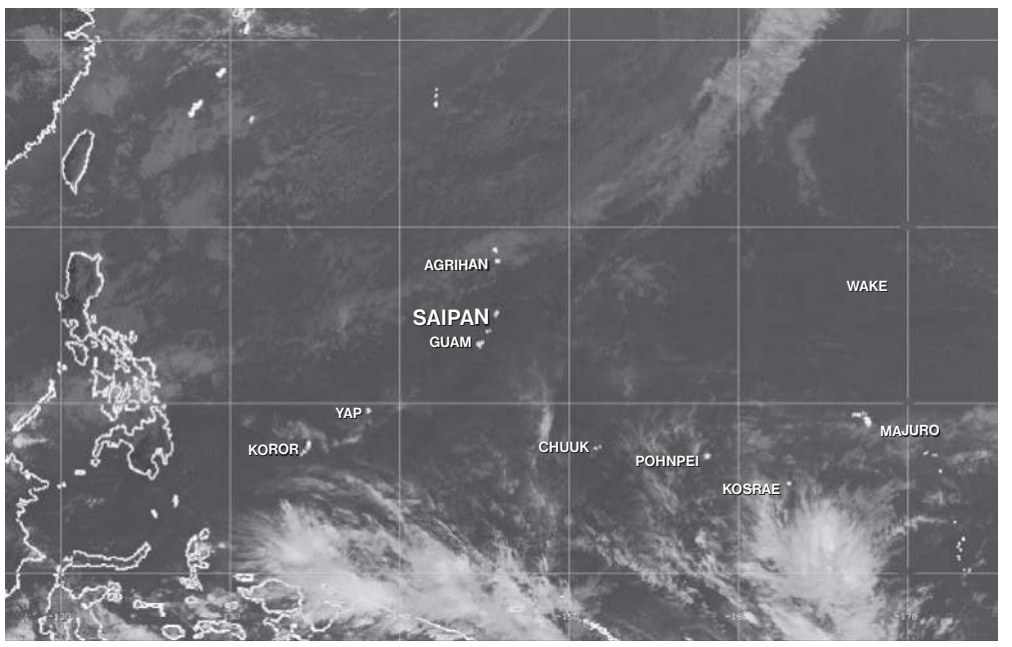
Trump has broken ranks with his predecessors and America's traditional values as he enviably looks at totalitarian states' control of media, message, and manipulation. His benevolent attitude toward China's blind pursuit of its own interests makes it more difficult for China's global critics to pressure Xi's regime.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:05 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Weak trade-wind convergence brought clouds and a few showers to the Marianas this morning. These clouds will persist through the morning before giving way to partly cloudy skies this afternoon. Partly cloudy skies will prevail through Tuesday. Models show another area of trade-wind convergence occurring over the local area the second half of the week. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday through Friday. Showers should remain isolated.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼°F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼°F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 59°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	66° / 43°
Hong Kong	Showers	73° / 68°
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 41°
Los Angeles	Showers	69° / 54°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	91° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Miami	Sunny	71° / 54°
New York	Snow Shower	44° / 31°
Osaka	Sunny	66° / 50°
Paris	Showers	52° / 43°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	63° / 54°
Rome	Sunny	61° / 41°
Salem	Sunny	60° / 34°
San Francisco	Rain	56° / 46°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°
Tokyo	Sunny	70° / 48°
Washington, DC	Windy	46° / 30°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.64
11:38 AM	LOW TIDE	1.10
4:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.60
11:47 PM	LOW TIDE	0.09

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:25 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:25 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:13 am	2:53 pm	-
Wednesday	3:59 am	3:43 pm	-
Thursday	4:43 am	4:33 pm	-
Friday	5:25 am	5:24 pm	-
Saturday	6:07 am	6:15 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Lots of talk, little action on curbing health care costs

AP
In this Feb. 6, 2018, file photo, dawn breaks over the Capitol in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—It started as a bipartisan attempt to curb soaring health care premiums.

But Congress' effort to stabilize the nation's insurance markets is faltering amid escalating demands by each party and erratic positions by President Donald Trump. Democrats want bigger federal subsidies for consumers under President Barack Obama's health care law while Republicans, still fighting that statute, aim to relax its coverage requirements and win abortion restrictions.

The bickering could collapse the whole effort, with each side blaming the other when next year's expected higher insurance rates are announced—just weeks before Election Day, on Nov. 6.

Last week, Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, a lead Democratic negotiator, called GOP demands on abortion limitations "a complete non-starter." A spokeswoman for Rep. Ryan Costello, R-Pa., sponsor of the House GOP package, said if Democrats want to oppose the effort "by playing abortion politics, then shame on them."

Some Democrats think they'd reap political gains if the talks collapse since polls show the health care statute is widely popular and the public would largely fault Republicans if consumer costs spiral skyward.

"Either Republicans help stabilize the market or they own these premium and deductible increases," said Rep. Kurt Schrader, D-Ore. "And I'd be glad to help crucify them if they don't want to do something very reasonable."

The effort forces Republicans to choose between trying to avert bad news about premiums shortly before elections or standing by their opposition to anything that could be viewed as propping up "Obamacare."

Trump hasn't clarified things for his party. In a single day last October, he bounced from praising one bipartisan plan as "a very good solution" to labeling it "bailouts to insurance companies."

Signs indicate insurance prices will likely continue upward. Without federal action, premiums are expected to rise in every state by up to 32 percent next year and by a cumulative 90 percent or more through 2021, according to a report released last week by Covered California, the state agency overseeing California's health care exchange.

Ominously for the GOP, the study found that 14 of the 17 states that risk potentially "catastrophic" three-year rate increases of 90 percent or more backed Trump in the 2016 elections.

To try containing those increases, lawmakers crafted two bipartisan bills last year.

One by Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Bill Nelson, D-Fla., would provide billions to states for reinsurance. The funds would help insurers afford covering some of the sickest, costliest customers.

Recruiters should not leave applicants hanging

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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Q: I am completely fed up with rude and unprofessional recruiters. A few months ago, one of them contacted me about a job and asked me to send her a resume. When I heard nothing after a couple of weeks, I sent a follow-up email, but received no response.

Several weeks later, the same person emailed me about a different position. She said she was sending the employer my resume, but again there was no follow-up. Yesterday, I received yet another email from her regarding a possible job.

At this point, I'm so angry that I want to tell this woman exactly what I think about her disrespectful behavior. Why do recruiters act like this?

A: Your frustration with unresponsive recruiters is shared by many job-seekers. But while some may indeed be inconsiderate jerks, this lack of communication typically stems from the nature of the recruiting process itself.

When searching for viable candidates, recruiters consider applicants from a wide range of sources and then contact those who appear to be a possible match for the job. While the applicant may view this as the start of a promising relationship, in reality it may just be the first step in narrowing a large field.

Because many recruiters lack the administrative support needed to follow up with everyone, priority is given to those applicants who are most appealing to the employers who have paid for this service. The unfortunate result is that many preliminary contacts are simply left hanging.

This does not let recruiters off the hook, however. Instead of making anxious applicants wait for an email that will never come, they need to establish reasonable expectations. Every contact should be told exactly what will happen next, including the likelihood of receiving feedback.

As for your own situation, don't shoot yourself in the foot. Since this woman continues to reach out, your connection with her may eventually pay off. But if you lash out in frustration, you won't hear from her again, because no one wants to hire an angry person.

Q: I'm not sure how to handle questions from my manager about my retirement plans. I had previously shared some preliminary thoughts with him, so now he's asking if that's what I intend to do. Although he has emphasized that he wants me to stay, he seems to be thinking about my successor. Is this legal? And how should I respond to him?

A: If I were talking to your boss, I would strongly advise him to drop this line of inquiry. While a question about retirement may not actually be illegal, broaching the subject can easily be interpreted as age discrimination. For you, however, pointing out his error would not be the best response.

With uncomfortable or inappropriate questions, the most effective replies tend to be brief and vague. For example: "Since I really like my job, I'm not currently thinking about retirement plans. But when that time comes, I will be sure to give you sufficient notice."

As I'm sure you now realize, your initial mistake was in sharing those "preliminary retirement thoughts." Whenever an employee mentions leaving, management immediately sees a flight risk and begins pondering possible replacements.

China shrinking steel industry, but too slowly for West

BEIJING (AP)—China's steel mills, a target of U.S. President Donald Trump's ire, are their industry's 800-pound gorilla: They supply half of world output, so every move they make has a global impact.

The steel industry swelled over the past decade to support a history-making Chinese construction boom. Once that tailed off, the country was left with a glut of half-idle, money-losing mills.

Beijing has closed mills and eliminated 1 million jobs but is moving too slowly to defuse American and European anger at a flood of low-cost exports that is double the volume of second-place Japan.

Trump responded last week with a blanket tariff hike on steel and aluminum, another metal China's trading partners complain it oversupplies.

Chinese authorities say they shut down 30 million tons of steel production capacity last year. That cut alone is equal in size to the annual output of the No. 9 producer, Brazil, but only a sliver of China's 800 million tons.

Beijing's goal is to make its industry more efficient and profitable, not just smaller. So while some mills close, bigger rivals step up production and could become even more formidable global competitors.

Total steel production rose 5.7 percent last year over 2016 to a record 831 million tons, according to the Chinese Cabinet's planning agency, the National Reform and Development Commission. That was on top of a 1.2 percent increase in 2016 and more than seven times Japan's output.

The industry is forecasting another 1 percent rise this year.

"Without the capacity cutting, there would have been much more production than there is now," said Wang Suzhen, an analyst for Mysteel, a news service that follows the Chinese industry.

Steel and heavy industry have long been a political touchstone for Chinese leaders, which led to economic disaster in the 1950s.

In 1958, then-leader Mao Zedong encouraged the public to produce steel in backyard furnaces for his Great Leap Forward, a short-lived attempt at overnight industrialization.

Villagers stripped hillsides for fuel and burned doors and furniture to melt pots and pans and whatever other metal they could find to produce useless pig iron. The diversion of resources into the Great Leap led to famine that killed tens of millions of people.

In the past two decades, production took off as Chinese cities were bulldozed and rebuilt with thousands of new office and apartment towers, shopping malls, bridges and expressways. Output rose from under 130 million tons in 2000 to more than 600 million in 2010.

China's voracious appetite for iron ore helped to drive economic booms in Australia, Brazil and other supplier countries. Mills bought Western and Japanese smelter technology.

Steel and aluminum, along with coal, glass and solar panels, are among many Chinese industries that mushroomed until supply vastly outstripped demand.

Once the building boom cooled, suppliers left with vast stockpiles of unsold goods resorted to price-cutting wars that threatened many with bankruptcy.

Beijing has announced plans to shrink steel and coal but has yet to outline plans for others.

China's aluminum output is a fraction of steel's size at about 36 million tons last year. But foreign competitors say the impact of low-cost Chinese exports on their industry has been even more devastating.

Nation

Despite heated rhetoric, little change on US-Mexico border

CALEXICO, Calif. (AP)—The daily commute from Mexico to California farms is the same as it was before Donald Trump became president. Hundreds of Mexicans cross the border and line the sidewalks of Calexico's tiny downtown by 4 a.m., napping on cardboard sheets and blankets or sipping coffee from a 24-hour doughnut shop until buses leave for the fields.

For decades, cross-border commuters have picked lettuce, carrots, broccoli, onions, cauliflower and other vegetables that make California's Imperial Valley "America's Salad Bowl" from December through March. As Trump visits the border Tuesday, the harvest is a reminder of how little has changed despite heated rhetoric in Washington.

Trump will inspect eight prototypes for a future 30-foot border wall that were built in San Diego last fall. He made "a big, beautiful wall" a centerpiece of his campaign and said Mexico would pay for it.

But border barriers extend the same 654 miles (1,046 kilometers) they did under President Barack Obama and so far Trump hasn't gotten Mexico or Congress to pay for a new wall.

Trump also pledged to expand the Border Patrol by 5,000 agents, but staffing fell during his first year in office farther below a congressional mandate because the government has been unable to keep pace with attrition and retirements. There were 19,437 agents at the end of September, down from 19,828 a year earlier.

AP

In this March 6, 2018 picture, farmworker Santiago Martinez, of Mexicali, Mexico, picks cabbage before dawn in a field outside of Calexico, Calif.

In Tijuana, tens of thousands of commuters still line up weekday mornings for San Diego at the nation's busiest border crossing, some for jobs in landscaping, housekeeping, hotel maids and shipyard maintenance. The vast majority are U.S. citizens and legal residents or holders of "border crossing cards" that are given to millions of Mexicans in border areas for short visits. The border crossing cards do not include work authorization but some break the rules.

Even concern about Trump's threat to end the North American Free Trade Agreement is tempered by awareness that border economies have been integrated for decades. Mexican "maquiladora" plants, which assemble duty-free raw materials for export to the U.S., have made televisions, medical supplies and other goods since the 1960s.

"How do you separate twins that are joined at the hip?" said Paola Avila, chairwoman of the Border Trade Alliance, a group that includes local governments and business chambers. "Our business relationships will continue to grow regardless of what happens with NAFTA."

Workers in the Mexicali area rise about 1 a.m., carpool to the border crossing and wait about an hour to reach Calexico's portico-covered sidewalks by 4 a.m. Some beat the border bottleneck by crossing at midnight to sleep in their cars in Calexico, a city of 40,000 about 120 miles (192 kilometers) east of San Diego.

Fewer workers make the trek now than 20 and 30 years ago. But not because of Trump.

Steve Scaroni, one of Imperial Valley's largest labor contractors, blames the drop on lack of interest among younger Mexicans, which has forced him to rely increasingly on short-term farmworker visas known as H-2As.

"We have a saying that no one is raising their kids to be farmworkers," said Scaroni, 55, a third-generation grower and one of Imperial Valley's largest labor contractors. Last week, he had two or three buses of workers leaving Calexico before dawn, compared to 15 to 20 buses during the 1980s and 1990s.

Crop pickers at Scaroni's Fresh Harvest Inc. make $13.18 an hour but H-2As bring his cost to $20 to $30 an hour because he must pay for round-trip transportation, sometimes to southern Mexico, and housing. The daily border commuters from Mexicali cost only $16 to $18 after overhead.

Scaroni's main objective is to expand the H-2A visa program, which covered about 165,000 workers in 2016. On his annual visit to Washington in February to meet members of Congress and other officials, he decided within two hours that nothing changed under Trump.

Trump backs off push for raising assault rifle purchase age

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House unveiled a new plan to prevent school shootings that backs off President Donald Trump's support for increasing the minimum age for purchasing assault weapons to 21.

Instead, a new federal commission on school safety will examine the age issue as part of a package the White House announced Sunday in response to the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, last month that left 17 dead.

The administration also pledged to help states pay for firearms training for teachers and reiterated its call to improve the background check and mental health systems.

In a call with reporters Sunday evening, administration officials described the plan as a fulfillment of Trump's call for action in the wake of the Parkland shooting.

"Today we are announcing meaningful actions, steps that can be taken right away to help protect students," said Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who will chair the commission.

DeVos said that "far too often, the focus" after such tragedies "has been only on the most contentious fights, the things that have divided people and sent them into their entrenched corners." She described the plan as "pragmatic."

The plan was immediately panned by gun control advocates, including the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. "Americans expecting real leadership to prevent gun violence will be disappointed and troubled by President Trump's dangerous retreat from his promise," said Avery Gardiner, the group's co-president.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York described it as "tiny baby steps designed not to upset the NRA, when the gun violence epidemic in this country demands that giant steps be taken."

Trump was deeply moved by the February shooting and convened a series of listening sessions in the weeks after the massacre. In televised meetings with lawmakers, survivors of recent school shootings and the families of victims, Trump made a strong case for arming teachers, but also increasing the age for purchasing long guns.

"I mean, so they buy a revolver—a handgun—they buy at the age of 21. And yet, these other weapons that we talk about ... they're allowed to buy them at 18. So how does that make sense?" he told school officials last month. "We're going to work on getting the age up to 21 instead of 18."

2 killed, 3 critically injured in NYC helicopter crash

NEW YORK (AP)—A helicopter crashed into New York City's East River Sunday night and flipped upside down in the water, killing two of the six people aboard and leaving three others in critical condition, officials said.

Video taken by a bystander and posted on Twitter shows the red helicopter land hard in the water and then capsize, its rotors slapping at the water.

The helicopter, a private charter hired for a photo shoot, went down near Gracie Mansion, the mayoral residence. One person, the pilot, freed himself and was rescued by a tugboat, officials said.

The passengers were recovered by police and fire department divers, who had to remove them from tight harnesses while they were upside down, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said.

"It took awhile for the drivers to get these people out. They worked very quickly as fast as they could," Nigro said. "It was a great tragedy that we had here."

Witnesses on a waterfront esplanade near where the aircraft went down said the helicopter was flying noisily, then suddenly dropped into the water and quickly submerged. But the pilot appeared on the surface, holding onto a flotation device as a tugboat and then police boats approached.

"It's cold water. It was sinking really fast," Mary Lee, 66, told the New York Post. "By the time we got out here, we couldn't see it. It was underwater."

Celia Skyvaril, 23, told the Daily News that she could see a person on what looked like a yellow raft or float screaming and yelling for help.

News footage showed one victim being loaded into an ambulance while emergency workers gave him chest compressions.

A bystander, Susan Larkin, told The Associated Press that she went down to see rescue boats in the river and a police helicopter circling overhead, hovering low over the water.

"You could clearly see they were searching," she said.

A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said the Eurocopter AS350 went down just after 7 p.m. The aircraft was owned by Liberty Helicopters, a company that offers both private charters and sightseeing tours popular with tourists. A phone message left with the company was not immediately returned.

The skies over New York constantly buzz with helicopters carrying tourists, businesspeople, traffic reporters, medical teams and others. Crashes are not unheard of.

In 2009, a sightseeing helicopter of the same model and operated by the same company as the one in Sunday's wreck collided with a small, private plane over the Hudson River, killing nine people, including a group of Italian tourists.

A crash in October 2011 in the East River killed a British woman visiting the city for her 40th birthday. Three other passengers were injured.

Asia

Calm before storm? Pyongyang still mum on Trump summit

TOKYO (AP)—News of the planned summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sent shockwaves around the globe. But in North Korea—as of Monday, several days after the announcement—not a word about it had been reported by the state-run media.

Pyongyang has been surprisingly quiet on the slew of momentous, and possibly even historic, events that have come in quick succession over the past few months.

It has essentially barred foreign media from visiting the country for more than a month and, while trumpeting the need for better inter-Korean relations, clung to the same anti-U.S., pro-nuclear weapons tone it struck at the height of its missile-testing frenzy last year.

Officials in Seoul say Pyongyang is keeping them in the dark as well.

"Regarding the North Korea-U.S. summit meeting, there hasn't been an official response by the North Korean government. So we think North Korea is having a cautious approach on the issue as it needs time to organize its stance," Unification Ministry spokesman Baik Tae-hyun said Monday.

It's not unusual for the North Korean media to take their time in getting out the news.

Because they are state-run, all newspapers, radio and television broadcasters and the official news agency are without fail on message. As Baik suggested, sometimes it takes a while to figure out what that message should be.

The North Korean government might have also been holding off because it's concerned the summit proposal could fall through, which could be hard to explain to their own public.

But as of Monday, the only official word of the North's offer of a summit with Trump in exchange for a moratorium on missile and nuclear tests had come from South Korea. The North's main newspaper, the Rodong Sinmun, which is run by the ruling party, had only put out a few paragraphs about a visit by senior South Korean officials last week.

It made no mention of any summit plans, let alone any conditions or statements on whether Kim is seriously mulling abandoning his nuclear weapons.

Though it warranted just a brief in the North's main newspaper, last week's meeting in Pyongyang was a big one.

It led to an agreement for Kim to have a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in next month. The same officials then carried to Washington a verbal message of Kim's willingness to meet Trump, which the U.S. president is said to have immediately accepted. The Trump-Kim summit is supposed to take place by May.

The lack of confirmation from Pyongyang has generated skepticism about how accurately Seoul and Washington are depicting Kim's intentions.

The silence on the summits was even more glaring because of how the North had played up the Olympic diplomacy that started it all off.

Kim used his nationally televised New Year's address to launch the first salvo of his new charm offensive, wishing for the success of the Pyeongchang Olympics and vowing 2018 would be a historic year for Koreans on both sides of the Demilitarized Zone. The annual address is a major news event and Kim's biggest regular platform for making important policy announcements.

AP

A newspaper with headline of a planned summit meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, left, is displayed at a subway station in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, March 10, 2018.

Hong Kong pro-democracy movement loses ground in by-election

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong pro-democracy candidates won back only two of four seats in a crucial by-election in the semiautonomous Chinese region, final results showed Monday.

The opposition wasn't able to recapture all its territory, losing some to formidably resourced pro-Beijing rivals and falling short of the number needed to veto most bills in the city's semi-democratic Legislative Council.

The four seats were among six left empty when a group of lawmakers were expelled following a 2016 controversy over their oaths, which they used to defy China.

Little-known activist and neighborhood councilor Au Nok-hin won a key battleground after being enlisted at the last minute. He stepped in after election officials rejected the pro-democracy camp's marquee candidate, 21-year-old Agnes Chow, over her party's platform advocating "self-determination" for the former British colony, which she slammed as "political screening."

The disqualifications of lawmakers and candidates have raised fears among activists and international groups that Hong Kong's Beijing-backed government is taking an increasingly hard line on dissent.

"I won't say the result today is a victory," Au said after his results were announced. "I would say it's only a hollow victory, because we've paid a rather high price for it. The democracy camp has faced huge suppressions due to the political turmoil over these years."

Au had called the vote a referendum on democracy in Hong Kong, but the prospect of democratic development looks increasingly distant after China's rubber-stamp parliament voted Sunday to abolish presidential term limits, allowing President Xi Jinping to stay in power indefinitely.

Under the "one country, two systems" framework, Beijing promised to let Hong Kong maintain wide autonomy and civil liberties following its 1997 handover from Britain but fears are rising that China's communist leaders are backtracking.

Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp now holds 26 seats in the 70-seat Legislative Council. Two remaining empty seats will be decided later because they're the subject of ongoing legal action.

About 43 percent of 2.1 million eligible voters cast ballots for three geographical seats, lower than the 58.3 percent in 2016's citywide vote.

"It is significant that we didn't mobilize the people to vote. This is a serious challenge for 2020," when the next round of elections is scheduled, said Joseph Cheng, a retired political science professor, who added that residents "seem to be apathetic."

Edward Yiu, who was the only one of the disqualified lawmakers to compete again, narrowly lost to a pro-Beijing rival after a nail-biting recount. A third pro-democracy candidate, Gary Fan, won his constituency.

In a fourth race, architects and surveyors elected a pro-Beijing candidate over Dutch native Paul Zimmerman. About half of the council's seats are chosen by mainly pro-Beijing business and trade groups.

Xi Jinping's rule shatters hopes for China's liberalization

BEIJING (AP)—When American scholar Orville Schell first visited China in 1975, Mao Zedong was leading the country through the tumultuous Cultural Revolution, when Chinese were being shamed, beaten and even killed for perceived political mistakes.

Four years later, Schell returned to a nation transformed. Mao was dead, and the country was pulling itself together under reformist Deng Xiaoping. Some Chinese people even plastered posters on a wall in central Beijing, criticizing past excesses and advocating democracy.

"China had suddenly gone from being this implacable enemy that was closed to any contact to being quite open and receptive to interacting," recalled Schell, now the director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations at the New York-based Asia Society.

That opening, followed by Deng's market-style economic reforms in 1979, ignited Western hopes that—despite the ruling Communist Party's insistence that it would never share power—China was destined to become a democracy.

Those hopes are quickly dissipating with the rise of party leader Xi Jinping, who many once thought would be the next great reformer. Xi is now poised to rule indefinitely after China's rubber-stamp legislature voted Sunday to eliminate presidential term limits.

A small but growing number of Western academics and government analysts who spent decades looking for signs that China was becoming a democracy now say those perceived markers may have been no more than a mirage.

"In the past, both sides presumed China was trying to become more democratic," Schell said. "What Xi marks so clearly is that there is no longer the pretension. You cannot believe the pretension that China is becoming more democratic and open."

Kurt M. Campbell, a former U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia, and Ely Ratner, a former deputy national security adviser, wrote in the journal Foreign Affairs in February that events in the last decade have "dashed even modest hopes for political liberalization."

China is now Washington's most formidable competitor in modern history, they wrote: "Getting this challenge right will require doing away with the hopeful thinking that has long characterized the United States' approach to China."

Under Deng, the ruling party began to allow small-scale free enterprise and eased social controls. To ensure the party's survival, communist leaders embarked on a bold experiment in the 1990s to create the Marxist-Leninist world's first formal system of succession. The Chinese public still had no voice in picking their government, but leaders would share power and step down after fixed terms.

Even that has been swept aside by the rise of Xi, who is now poised to rule for as long as he wants as China's most powerful leader since Mao. The move to scrap presidential limits revives the specter of one-man rule that Deng tried to ward off when he abolished lifetime tenure in 1982 in favor of a more collegial system.

World

Rumors, mistrust hinder Brazil yellow fever vaccine campaign

SAO PAULO (AP)—Elisangela Santos doesn't understand why everyone in her neighborhood on the outskirts of Sao Paulo is being told to get vaccinated for yellow fever this year. Yellow fever has long been endemic in parts of Brazil, and she smells a rat.

"Every year, it's something else," the 44-year-old school custodian said as she waiting recently outside a health post in the Jardim Miriam district. "They invent another thing to make Brazilians spend money."

The vaccine is free at public health posts around the country, but Santos' suspicion that someone must be profiting somewhere is typical of the current high levels of mistrust Brazilians hold for officialdom. Flagging faith in Brazil's institutions amid a series of corruption scandals, a chaotic communications campaign promoting the vaccine, and the country's decision to give partial doses to stretch supplies are contributing to rumors that the vaccine is a scam, weak or even dangerous.

That misinformation is scaring people away from the campaign that is trying to vaccinate more than 23 million people in areas of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Bahia states that until recently were not considered at risk for yellow fever. Nearly six weeks into the campaign, the Health Ministry says 76 percent of the target population has been vaccinated—far off its goal of 95 percent.

The current atmosphere of uncertainty and rumors around the vaccine is likely to make the last 20 percent very difficult to reach, hampering the efforts of Latin America's biggest nation to contain its largest yellow fever outbreak in more than three decades.

AP

In this March 2, 2018 photo, a child cries out as she is given a vaccine against yellow fever at a public health post set up on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The reticence could even lead to a sustained outbreak in Brazil's megacities. Brazil hasn't had an urban outbreak since 1942.

"If we have a higher number of infected people with yellow fever and the Aedes aegypti mosquito starts to become infected and transmit yellow fever, it could become urban," said Luiz Antonio Teixeira Jr., Rio de Janeiro state's health secretary. "Everything we're doing is to ensure we don't have urban yellow fever."

Yellow fever has long been endemic in large swaths of Brazil, but it has been advancing in recent years and this is the second outbreak in two years in places where vaccinations for the disease were not routine. During the 2016-2017 outbreak, more than 770 people were infected after nearly a decade during which Brazil saw fewer than 10 cases each year. In the current outbreak, there have already been 846 cases confirmed, of which 260 have died.

The outbreak is stressing the health system just a few years after a major outbreak of Zika, which was linked to severe birth defects in babies born to infected mothers.

While rumors have sometimes swirled around past vaccination campaigns, the rise of the WhatsApp messaging service is amplifying misinformation like never before, said Igor Sacramento, a researcher at Fiocruz, Brazil's premier public research institute.

WhatsApp "is a fundamental characteristic of the way we circulate information, news, etc.," said Sacramento, who works in the institute's health communications lab. Since WhatsApp messages come from people known by the recipients, they place a high value on the information shared there, and that means people often accept it without checking it, Sacramento said.

One rumor making the rounds on WhastApp, for instance, says a mutation in the yellow fever virus has rendered the vaccine ineffective, even citing a study published by Fiocruz. That is not true, and the institute put out a statement saying that mutations in the disease have no impact on the vaccine's effectiveness.

Misinformation has even been circulating among health professionals, some of whom have resisted giving partial-dose vaccines, said Ana Goretti, the interim coordinator of the immunization program at the Health Ministry. In response, the ministry and all of Brazil's medical associations are preparing a statement that reiterates the safety and effectiveness of the partial dose.

The vaccination efforts have also been chaotic. Earlier this year, Brazilians encountered hours-long waits at some health posts before turnout fell precipitously. Many people outside a health post in Jardim Miriam complained that the first post they went to was out of the vaccine. Another woman said her son got vaccinated without presenting a vaccination card but her daughter was turned away for not having it.

Peace deal backers suffer in Colombia congress elections

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombian voters turned to right-wing parties critical of the country's peace deal with the main leftist rebels and knocked the current president's party down in congressional elections, raising questions about the future of the accord.

Sunday's vote was seen as a barometer for a fiercely contested presidential election in May.

It was also the first time former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, competed politically since disarming under the 2016 peace deal to end a half century of conflict. As expected, support for their radical agenda was soundly rejected, with FARC candidates getting less than 0.5 percent of the overall vote. That means their political party will get only the 10 seats guaranteed them by the peace accord.

"The FARC are in a tough spot," said Leon Valencia, a former combatant who now runs the Peace and Reconciliation Foundation, a think tank. "A long war has generated lots of fear and rancor towards them."

By contrast, many of the accord's critics picked up seats, with the Democratic Center party led by former President Alvaro Uribe headed to being the biggest bloc in the Senate.

Uribe's hand-picked presidential candidate, Sen. Ivan Duque, easily swept an open primary among three conservative candidates in which more than 5.8 million people voted—a bigger haul than either of the top two finishers got in the first round of the 2014 presidential election.

President Juan Manuel Santos' coalition, which supported the peace deal, struggled. His own Party of National Unity, which was the biggest political movement in the outgoing congress, finished fifth overall.

The results are likely to lead to a last-minute scramble among presidential candidates to form coalitions to better position themselves ahead of what is seen as a wide-open presidential race.

Two candidates under pressure to join forces are Humberto de la Calle, who was the government's chief peace negotiator, and former Gov. Sergio Fajardo. Both candidates have vowed to implement the peace deal. The Green Alliance, one of the parties supporting Fajardo, doubled its vote tally from the last congressional elections, though it only came in sixth overall this year.

Another candidate who has backed the peace deal is Gustavo Petro, a leftist former mayor of Bogota who has promised to raise taxes on the rich and unseat the country's political establishment. Petro won a leftist primary Sunday in which he got 2.8 million votes. It was 1.2 million votes less than Duque's total but still made him a top presidential contender.

"Our results were very positive," Petro told his followers. "The presidential campaign starts today."

Duque has said he would not "thrash" the peace accord with the FARC, but he would attempt to modify certain aspects, like a provision that allows the former rebels with drug-trafficking convictions to participate in politics. He has also called for tougher controls on the FARC's finances.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran recovers black box from Turkish plane crash killing 11

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's state-run IRNA news agency says that authorities have recovered the "black box" from a Turkish private jet that crashed in Iran while traveling from the United Arab Emirates to Istanbul, killing all 11 people onboard. Monday's report says officials also have recovered 10 bodies so far from the crash in the Zagros Mountains outside of the city of Shahr-e Kord, some 370 kilometers, or 230 miles, south of Iran's capital, Tehran. The flight took off Sunday from Sharjah in the UAE. Sharjah civil aviation authorities say the plane's eight passengers were six Turks and two Spaniards. Three others were the flight crew. The flight likely carried Mina Basaran, the 28-year-old daughter of the chairman of Basaran Investment Holding, and her friends who had celebrated her bachelorette party in Dubai.

Ethiopia command post says 9 civilians killed by mistake

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Ethiopian security forces mistakenly killed nine civilians in Moyale, located on the country's southern border with Kenya, according to a command post established to oversee Ethiopia's state of emergency. Five members of Ethiopia's National Defense Forces involved in the killings have been disarmed and are under investigation, the command post stated. "A special armed unit set up in the border area to take measures against the Oromo Liberation Front militants mistakenly attacked civilians that resulted in the deaths of nine people," said a statement issued by the command post, adding that 12 other civilians were also injured in the incident. "The investigation will be concluded in a short time and the result will be announced to the public." Since Ethiopia's government declared a state of emergency in mid-February the security forces have killed several other people, according to a human rights group. Seven people were killed by security forces in the restive Oromia region since the beginning of the month, the Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia said on March 9.

Focus

PUTIN'S RUSSIA:

From basket case to resurgent SUPERPOWER

AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives to give his annual state of the nation address in Manezh in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, March 1, 2018. Putin set a slew of ambitious economic goals, vowing to boost living standards, improve health care and education and build modern infrastructure in a state-of-the-nation address.

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Putin and his Russia look more invincible today than at any other time in his 18 years in power.

Since Putin last faced an election in 2012, Russians have invaded Ukraine, annexed Crimea, blanket-bombed Syria, been accused of meddling in the U.S. presidential election and claimed to have a scary new nuclear arsenal.

"No one listened to us. You listen to us now," he said earlier this month, boasting about those weapons.

Putin will overwhelmingly win re-election as president on March 18, again. So why bother holding a vote at all?

He disdains democracy as messy and dangerous—yet he craves the legitimacy conferred by an election. He needs tangible evidence that Russians need him and his great-power vision more than they worry about the freedoms he has muffled, the endemic corruption he has failed to eradicate, the sanctions he invited by his actions in Crimea and Ukraine.

"Any autocrat wants love," said analyst Andrei Kolesnikov of the Carnegie Moscow Center, and Putin gets that love "from high support in elections."

Expected to win as much as 80 percent of the vote, Putin will further cement his authority over Russia, a czar-like figure with a democratic veneer.

During his 14 years as president and four years as prime minister of the world's largest country, Putin has transformed Russia's global image, consolidated power over its politics and economy and imprisoned opponents. He has offered asylum to Edward Snowden, quieted extremism in long-restive Chechnya, hosted phenomenally expensive Olympic Games and won the right to stage this year's World Cup.

Now 65-years-old, he's not planning to leave anytime soon.

For 19-year-old art history student Maria Pogodina, "Putin is all of my conscious life, and so it's clear I have a lot to say thank you for."

Yet Pogodina worries about some of his policies as she prepares to vote and hopes to see a gradual transformation.

"I am not talking about revolution, no way," the teenager said, summing up the stance of many Russians of all ages. "I hope and believe it won't happen and that we can avoid civil conflict."

The election will confirm Putin's argument that to improve life in Russia, the country needs continuity more than it needs drastic change, independent media, political opposition, environmental activism or rights for homosexuals and other minorities.

Russia will remain disproportionately dependent on oil prices, and its 144 million people will stay poorer than they should be - and many will remain convinced that the world is out to get them.

Putin's most important mission in the next six years will be working out a plan for what happens when his next term expires in 2024: Will he anoint a friendly successor or invent a scheme that allows him to keep holding the reins?

Today's all-powerful Putin bears little resemblance to the man who took his tentative first steps as president on the eve of the new millennium.

Catapulted to power on Boris Yeltsin's surprise resignation as president, Putin walked into his new office Dec. 31, 1999, in a suit that seemed too big for his shoulders. His low-level KGB background made him seem shifty, and many Russians regarded him as little more than a puppet of the oligarchs then pulling the Kremlin's strings.

Russia was still emerging from a tumultuous post-Soviet hangover. Contract killings dominated headlines, its army couldn't afford socks for its soldiers, and its budget was still dependent on foreign loans.

Eighteen years later, Putin's friends run the economy and Russia's military is resurgent.

An entire generation has never known a Russia without Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin in charge. And an increasing number of other leaders—President Donald Trump among them—are emulating his nationalist, besieged fortress mentality.

The once-feisty Russian media has fallen silent. Kremlin propaganda now has a global audience, via far-reaching networks RT and Sputnik.

Yet while Putin looks invulnerable on the surface, he has reason to worry.

The Kremlin is lashing out at opposition leader Alexei Navalny's recent investigations of corruption, fearing they could spur public uproar. And the battle for succession threatens to cause damaging splits within Putin's inner circle.

Meanwhile, Russia's disillusioned youth could turn against him. Some have joined Navalny's protests; others just won't bother to vote, quietly sapping his power.

As Putin faces challenges at home, expect more Russian chest-thumping abroad.

"The international environment is an instrument for him in managing those domestic challenges first and foremost," said Matthew Rojansky, director of the Kennan Institute in Washington. "He can declare something like a Syria intervention or something in the post-Soviet space."

And a newly elected Putin is likely to continue the Cold War-like relationship with Trump's United States.

Russia sees the investigation into alleged meddling in the U.S. election as concocted - but also as a sign that Russia is important again, and that Americans are obsessed with weakening Russia at all costs.

"Does the U.S. treat Russia equally? Does it take Russia seriously? That's an enormously important benchmark" for Russians, Rojansky said. "They are not benchmarking themselves against China."

Ever since a leading U.S. diplomat was recorded giving instructions to Ukrainian opposition figures, Russians have been convinced that Washington caused the Ukraine conflict by messing in Russia's backyard, and that America bears responsibility for the ensuing fighting. It has killed thousands and remains unresolved.

Russia's annexation of Crimea prompted U.S. and European Union sanctions, sending Putin's popularity skyrocketing.

Crimea is framed as Russia's biggest victory in the Putin era, a restoration of might and righting of historical wrongs. To drive the message home, the March 18 election is being held on the fourth anniversary of the takeover.

The last time Putin faced voters, he also was guaranteed victory but was on shakier ground. A movement led by Navalny had brought masses to the streets of Moscow and other cities, as the educated middle class chafed at Putin's backward-looking vision.

Since then, Navalny has been arrested repeatedly and is barred from running for president for criminal convictions that are seen as politically driven. Other opposition figures also have been sidelined, such as onetime billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who spent 10 years in prison for tax fraud charges seen as punishment for political ambitions. He now lives abroad.

Meanwhile, Russia's problems persist.

Putin has barely bothered with campaigning. When he does, he promises a brighter future, implicitly acknowledging a lackluster present.

With around 20 million Russians currently living below the official poverty line of about $180 a month, he pledges higher wages and pensions. He wants better health care to boost life expectancy from 73, several years below European levels. Recent space launch failures have drawn attention to troubles with the struggling aerospace industry, once a pillar of Soviet pride, and he wants Russia to catch up on robotic technologies and artificial intelligence.

"To put it mildly, Putin will have plenty to do in his next term," Kolesnikov said.

Notably, he must ensure that his country can outlast him.

Political scientist Dmitry Oreshkin asked, "sooner or later there will be no Putin, and at that point, what will we do with Russia?"

Overdrive

2018 Ford EcoSport subcompact SUV arrives late, struggles to compete

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

TNS
2018 Ford EcoSport subcompact SUV.

Ford is playing catch-up with the 2018 EcoSport subcompact SUV, but it's a long way behind. The EcoSport just went on sale in the United States, but it's a face-lifted version of an SUV Ford's been selling in other parts of the world since 2012. Most of the competition is newer, with equipment that reflects it.

Adding to the challenge, the EcoSport competes with established subcompacts like Chevrolet Trax, Fiat 500X, Jeep Renegade, Honda HR-V and Subaru Crosstrek. A couple of new competitors, the Hyundai Kona and Nissan Kicks, go on sale shortly.

Clearly, subcompact SUVs were not Job 1 at Ford Motor Co. That's somewhat understandable. They're popular in other parts of the world, but sell in relatively small numbers in the U.S., where customer tastes lean toward compact and midsize SUVs like the Ford Escape and Explorer, respectively. Ford sold 308,296 Escapes in 2017, and 271,131 Explorers in the U.S. last year.

Among other subcompact SUVs, the Subaru Crosstrek sold 110,138 in 2017, the Jeep Renegade notched 103,434 sales, and the Chevy Trax, which may be the EcoSport's most attainable competitor, notched 79,289.

Despite those modest numbers, subcompact SUVs are a meaningful class of vehicles.

Ford's arrival so late to the party in its home market is indicative of the indecisive leadership that led to the company's recent management turmoil.

Behind the Wheel

2018 Ford EcoSport Titanium FWD

Front-drive, five-passenger subcompact SUV

Price as tested: $26,080 (excluding destination charge)

Rating: Two out of four stars)

Reasons to buy: Price; easy to park; smartphone compatibility

Shortcomings: Lack of common features; noisy interior; side-hinged tailgate

How much?

Positioned below the compact Escape, the EcoSport is Ford's entry-level SUV. Prices start at $19,995 for front-drive and $21,495 for all-wheel drive. A 1.0-liter turbocharged three-cylinder engine that produces 123 horsepower and 125 pound-feet of torque is standard. A 2.0L four-cylinder that produces 166 hp and 149 lb-ft of torque is standard on AWD models and the sporty SES trim level. A six-speed automatic transmission is standard.

I tested a nicely equipped Titanium with the 1.0L with features that included power driver seat, locks and windows; push button start; blind spot alert; 8-inch touch screen; 675-watt 10-speaker B&O Play audio; Apple CarPlay; Android Auto; two USB ports; voice recognition; 4G LTE Wi-Fi hot spot, leather upholstery, heated front seats and steering wheel; and 17-inch aluminum wheels.

It stickered at $26,080. All prices exclude destination charges.

EcoSport prices are in the middle of its competitive set.

Ford builds the EcoSport at seven plants around the world. U.S. models come from Chennai, India.

Competitive base prices

(excluding destination charges)

(Automatic transmission, front-wheel-drive models where available)

Ford EcoSport Titanium FWD: $25,740

Chevrolet Trax Premier AWD: $27,300

Fiat 500X Lounge FWD: $25,515

Honda HR-V EX-L w/navi FWD: $25,140

Hyundai Kona Ultimate 1.6L DCT: $27,400

Jeep Renegade Limted FWD: $25,645

Subaru Crosstrek 2.0i Limited AWD: $26,295

Source: Autotrader

Outstanding features

The EcoSport is attractive. The model Ford's been selling around the world got a nose job and other styling tweaks to make it look like the bigger, better-selling Escape this year. The modern three-bar grille and LED accent lights give it a substantial appearance. The overall look is consistent with other Ford SUVs, though the EcoSport's small size becomes apparent in profile. At 161.9 inches long, and with a 99.2-inch wheelbase, it measures smallest in the segment. Nearly a foot shorter than a Ford Fiesta subcompact sedan, the EcoSport is incredibly easy to park.

The EcoSport's 20.9 cubic feet of cargo space behind the rear seat and 50 with the seat folded flat are among the largest in the segment. Only the HR-V beats the Ford on both counts, and the Crosstrek is the only other to top 50 cubic feet with the seat down.

Ford's research said buyers wanted phone compatibility, so a lot of work went into making the EcoSport's interface. Sync voice recognition is standard, and all models but the base S have either a 6- or 8-inch touch screen to accommodate Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Both of the touch screens have pinch and swipe functions.

The downside

The EcoSport's greatest shortcoming probably lies in the safety features competitors offer that it doesn't: Depending on the vehicle and model, you can find the following in other subcompact SUVs:

Lane departure alert and assist; front collision alert; pedestrian detection; automatic emergency braking; adaptive cruise control; 360-degree camera.

The EcoSport does offer antilock brakes, traction control, blind spot alert, parking assist and 10 air bags, but it lacks the safety and driver assist systems that more recently developed vehicles offer.

The EcoSport feels less refined than most of the competition. Interior noise is quite noticeable, both from the tires and engine. The steering doesn't provide much feedback.

Rear legroom is limited, and the side-hinged tailgate is less useful in tight parking spaces than the roof-hinged tailgates all the competition has.

While the 8-inch touchscreen in my EcoSport Titanium is a nice touch in this class of vehicle, it did not respond as quickly as the best systems.

Specifications as tested

Engine: 1.0L turbocharged 12-valve 4-cyl.

Power: 12 @ 6,000 hp rpm; 125 lb-ft of torque @ 3,500 rpm

Transmission: 6-speed automatic

Wheelbase: 99.2 inches

Length: 161.3 inches

Width: 69.5 inches

Height: 65.1 inches

Curb Weight: 3,021 lbs.

Where assembled: Chennai, India

Facts and figures

The 1.0L turbocharged four-cylinder engine's 123 hp and 125 lb-ft of torque are the lowest output in the segment. There's noticeable engine vibration at low engine rpm, and under hard acceleration for highway merges. The stop-start system that shuts the engine off at stoplights to save fuel felt a bit slower and more noticeable than leading competitors.

The EcoSport's EPA fuel economy rating falls in the middle of the pack. It scored 27 mpg in the city, 29 on the highway and 28 in combined driving.

The key combined figure matches the Trax, but trails the HR-V, Kona and Crosstrek. It beat the 500X and Renegade. Fuel economy ratings for the Nissan Kicks, which will only offer FWD, aren't available yet.

Competitive EPA fuel economy ratings

(Automatic transmission, front-wheel-drive models)

Ford EcoSport 1.0L FWD: 27 mpg city/29 highway/28 combined. Regular gasoline

Chevrolet Trax Premier AWD: 25/33/28. Regular

Fiat 500X Lounge FWD: 22/30/25. Regular

Honda HR-V EX-L w/navi FWD: 28/34/31. Regular

Hyundai Kona Ultimate 1.6L DCT FWD: 28/32/30. Regular

Jeep Renegade Limited FWD: 22/30/25. Regular

Subaru Crosstrek 2.0i Limited AWD: 27/33/29. Regular

The verdict

The EcoSport could have established Ford as an early leader in the subcompact SUV market if U.S. sales began when it was new. Back then, features like a touch screen and Wi-Fi hotspot would have set the standard for the segment.

Hitting the market in 2018, the EcoSport feels like a placeholder, introduced to give Ford dealers an alternative to popular vehicles from other brands until the automaker introduces an all-new and fully competitive subcompact SUV in two or three years.

Key features on vehicle tested

Standard equipment: Antilock brakes;, stability control; driver and passenger knee air bags; front-seat side air bags; curtain air bags; fog lights; halogen headlights; LED signature lights; rear vision camera; grille shutters; capless fuel filler; power windows, locks and side mirrors; push button start; voice recognition, Apple Car Play; Android Auto; 8-in. touch screen; power sun roof; 4G LTE Wi-Ffi hot spot; two USB ports; 110v and 12v outlets; 60/40 split flip and folding rear seats; ambient lighting; automatic climate control; power driver seat; manual tilt and telescope steering wheel; cruise control; B&O Play audio; hill start assist; blind spot alert; rearview camera; Sirius satellite radio;

Options: 17-inch aluminum wheels; heated steering wheel; windshield wiper de-icer; front and rear floor liners.

Life & Style

West Side, 4 stories: Development features movable building

By DEEPTI HAJELA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—The city's bid to host the 2012 Games in a rebuilt neighborhood of rail yards and industrial buildings never came to fruition, but the massive Hudson Yards project rising there now isn't suffering from a lack of Olympic-size ambition.

After five years of construction, a $25 billion minicity has been taking shape on Manhattan's West Side where officials once wanted to build an Olympic and NFL stadium.

The development, which will include a hotel, a school, a retail mall, restaurants, public plazas and a skyscraper taller than the Empire State Building, is intended to transform what was one of the last underused, industrial stretches of Manhattan into a destination like Rockefeller Center.

Its builders also hope one of its anchor structures, a performing arts center called The Shed, will make it a cultural draw.

The four-story-high building, now partially complete, is equipped with a mechanical marvel: a giant telescoping shell that can be extended to turn an adjacent, public open-air plaza into a climate-controlled performance hall with 120-foot ceilings.

Made of a steel frame covered by translucent panels, the shell rests on giant wheels that slide along rails to move it out to cover the plaza, which then becomes a space called The McCourt, named in honor of businessman Frank McCourt Jr., who donated $45 million to the project. The shell deploys in five minutes, at a speed of a quarter-mile per hour.

When in use, the shell can hold an audience of 1,250 seated or 2,700 standing, which can come up to 3,000 when combined with space from the fixed building.

At a presentation to announce part of the performance schedule for The Shed's inaugural 2019 season, Robert Katchur, an associate principal at Diller Scofidio and Renfro, the design firm that came up with the concept of the shell, said the idea was to give the art presented there as much room as possible, instead of being limited to the space in the fixed building alone or to an open-air plaza that could be used only in good weather.

"We wanted it to be able to engage with the public realm," he said.

When not being used, the shell will be "nested" over the fixed structure, which is next to a residential skyscraper also designed by Diller Scofidio and Renfro.

Among the inaugural offerings next year will be a live production, conceived by filmmaker Steve McQueen and music giant Quincy Jones, exploring the impact and history of African-American music. Other artists connected to inaugural projects include poet Anne Carson, opera singer Renee Fleming, and screenwriters Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger.

"If the range of artists that we present represent the range of society, then you have a chance of welcoming people from all over the place," said Alex Poots, the founding artistic director and CEO of The Shed.

The Hudson Yards site today is still a hive of construction activity. The skeleton of The Shed and its telescoping shell are both in place. External cladding is underway.

Nearby, the steel structure of another centerpiece at the site—a 150-foot (46-meter) climbable sculpture called The Vessel, made up of 154 twisting flights of stairs—has topped out.

Both attractions are ringed by finished and unfinished skyscrapers, including 30 Hudson Yards, which is well on its way to its planned height of 1,296 feet (395 meters).

Making Hudson Yards a must-visit place has always been the plan for its developers, Related Companies and Oxford Properties Group.

Rally shows free-wheeling, media-bashing Trump here to stay

AP

President Donald Trump reacts to the crowd while speaking at a campaign rally for Republican Rick Saccone in a hangar, Saturday, March 10, 2018, in Moon Township, Pa. Saccone is running against Democrat Conor Lamb in a special election being held on March 13 for the Pennsylvania 18th Congressional District vacated by Republican Tim Murphy.

WASHINGTON (AP)—He urged his audience not to jeer North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un while goading the crowd to boo the press.

He called an African-American congresswoman a "very low-IQ individual" and bashed the moderator of NBC's "Meet the Press" as a "sleeping son of a bitch."

If it wasn't crystal clear already, President Donald Trump's roaring rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday night underscored the fact that, more than a year into the job, Trump has no interest in leaving behind the vulgar insults or biting attacks on the free press that defined his 2016 Republican campaign.

"You'd be so bored," Trump said as he brushed off criticism that he should change his ways.

"Don't forget, this got us elected," he told the crowd outside Pittsburgh. "If I came like a stiff, you guys wouldn't be here tonight."

Instead, Trump repeatedly lashed out at the "fake, fake media" and insulted reporters, prompting the crowd to break into a round of a favorite 2016 chant, "CNN sucks."

But when it came to the North Korean leader, Trump was more restrained.

"No, it's very positive," Trump said after his mention of Kim's name prompted boos and jeers. Trump, who last week agreed to a historic one-on-one meeting with Kim, motioned with his arms for the crowd to calm. "After the meeting you may do that, but now we have to be very nice."

Later, he held up China and Singapore as examples of countries that had successfully tackled their drug problems and suggested mandating the death penalty for drug dealers in the United States.

Trump critic Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said the president's comments were setting a dangerous precedent.

"Words matter," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press," whose host, Chuck Todd, had been the subject of some of Trump's most virulent tongue-lashing, including being called a "sleeping son of a bitch."

Flake, who has hinted he might challenge Trump in 2020, said: "We had a record number of journalists being jailed overseas, some on false news charges, echoing the phrases that he uses. So I don't think it's a responsible thing to do."

But Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, also appearing on Todd's show, brushed off Trump's vulgar language, including his description of Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters, the ranking member of the House Committee on Financial Services, as a "low IQ" person.

"These are campaign rally issues," Mnuchin said. "That is at a campaign rally. And the president likes making funny names."

In celebration of her new life

Carmen Matagolai Toves

Date of Birth: May 17, 1948
Date of Death: March 04, 2018

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Simeon Cruz Matagolai &
†Rufina Pangelinan Matagolai
Husband: †Albert Songao Toves Jr.
Son: †Shively John Matagolai Toves
Parents In-Law: †Albert Manglona Toves &
†Carmen Songao Toves

Brothers/Sisters (In-Laws):
†Jesus P. Matagolai
†Remedio M. Sahagon (†Ignacio Sahagon, †Pedro Lizama)
†Caridad M. Pangelinan (†Jesus Pangelinan)
†Cecilia P. Matagolai
†Eugenia Pangelinan (†Fricio C. Pangelinan, †Jose R. Cruz)
†Serafin P. Matagolai
†Juanita P. Matagolai (†Jose Lucio)

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children/Grandchildren/Great-Grandchildren:
Barrie C. Toves (**Albert Herman** & Iesha **– *Alkindo'*** ; **Barry Jr.** & Tishae - ***Brysha***; **Bianca**/†Marlo - **Maia; Hannah; Matua**)
Albert S. III & Jessilin C. Toves (**Kyle** & Jocelyn **– *Camilo***; **Albert S. Toves IV; Prince Jess; Jesus Emanuel; True Lee**)
Joella M.Toves & Wayne Crisostimo (**Saniva**/Misael **– *Diauncie Alberie***; **Khalil**/Lejanie - ***Kaito***; **Warren, Krisanto; Galen; Shaina; Franny**)
Sonya Mae T. & Jeffrey L. Manglona (**Shively Jeff; Rita Mae; Jeffrey II; Jacob**)

Brother/Sisters (In-Laws)
Vicente P. Matagolai (Remedio C. Matagolai); Luisa M. Quitugua (†Fermin M. Quitugua); Maria P. Matagolai "Kire" ; Bernie Rabauliman (Henry Rabauliman)
Rita S. Atalig (†Domingo Q. Atalig); Francisco S./Juliana M. Toves; Ana T. Aldan (†Juan Aldan); Lourdes T. Manglona (†Fidel M. Manglona); Josephine T. /Tony Gomez; Rosalina T. /Danny Sasakura; Esperanza T./Luzon Cruz; Elizabeth S./Chona Toves; Andrea Marie T./Mark Kaipat; Linda S. Toves

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018. Her remains will be escorted from Divine Mercy Chapel at 7:30 am to San Francisco De Borja Church. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Service at San Jose Cemetery, Rota where she will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers

The Family

'Black Panther,' 4 weeks in, tops 'A Wrinkle in Time'

AP

This image released by Disney shows Storm Reid, from left, Deric McCabe and Reese Witherspoon in a scene from "A Wrinkle In Time."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—T'Challa still rules the box office four weeks in, even with the fresh rivalry of another Walt Disney Studios release in "A Wrinkle in Time."

"Black Panther" took the No. 1 spot at the North American box office with $41.1 million according to studio estimates Sunday, leaving another newcomer in its wake. The Marvel and Disney phenomenon crossed the $1 billion mark worldwide this weekend and became the 7th highest grossing domestic release with $562 million. Not accounting for inflation, it's now passed "The Dark Knight."

With a marketplace still dominated by "Black Panther," Disney faced some stiff competition from its own studio in launching Ava DuVernay's adaption of "A Wrinkle in Time," which opened in second place with $33.3 million from 3,980 locations. The PG-rated film, which cost around $103 million to produce and stars Oprah Winfrey and Reese Witherspoon, received mixed reviews from critics (it's currently at a "rotten" 44 percent on RottenTomatoes) and audiences who gave it a B CinemaScore.

In gauging "A Wrinkle in Time's" long-term prospects, a somewhat similar comparison could be Disney's "Tomorrowland," a PG-rated sci-fi pic with middling reviews and a B CinemaScore which opened to $33 million in the early summer of 2015 and went on to gross $93 million domestically. "Tomorrowland," however, notably cost nearly twice as much to make as "A Wrinkle in Time."

But the "Black Panther" effect is the x-factor here. For Disney, it's a "win all around."

"When you think about having two films at the top of the box office, it's definitely a win all around," says Disney's worldwide theatrical distribution president Dave Hollis. "We're feeling good about this start ... We're feeling good about what, for us, is a little family competition between now and (the Easter holiday)."

Hollis says he doesn't think the studio would have done anything differently regarding "Wrinkle's" release had they known the scope and longevity of "Black Panther's" prospects.

"There's always going to be competition in the marketplace," he says. "With a tentpole strategy like ours, four weeks of separation is about what we can expect."

Still, "Black Panther" has devoured the marketplace for a month straight now, leaving all other newcomers in the dust.

The new horror film "The Strangers: Prey At Night," with Christina Hendricks, took third place with $10.5 million. The Jennifer Lawrence thriller "Red Sparrow" landed in fourth in its second weekend with $8.2 million and the comedy "Game Night" placed fifth with $7.9 million in weekend three.

Hardly any of the new releases, which also included the thriller "The Hurricane Heist" (8th place, $3.2 million) and the dark action comedy "Grindgo," (11th place, $2.6 million) were well-reviewed going into the weekend, save for the limited release independents like "Thoroughbreds," which made $1.2 million from 549 locations, and Armando Iannucci's "The Death of Stalin," which opened in four theaters to $181,000.

It also left room for the Academy Award best picture winner "The Shape of Water," which is also available on home video, to capitalize on its post-Oscars stature. The Fox Searchlight film added 720 theaters and took in in $2.4 million from 1,552 locations, bringing its domestic total to $61 million.

But even though "Black Panther" has helped boost the year to date box office significantly, it's also proving to be a continued challenge for any other wide release hoping for a piece of the market.

"Every movie that has opened in the wake of 'Black Panther' has had its work cut out for it," says comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "We keep underestimating this film and it just shows no sign of slowing down."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Black Panther,"** $41.1 million ($100 million international).
2. **"A Wrinkle in Time,"** $33.3 million ($6.3 million international).
3. **"The Strangers: Prey At Night,"** $10.5 million ($140,000 international).
4. **"Red Sparrow,"** $8.2 million ($15.7 million international).
5. **"Game Night,"** $7.9 million ($5.4 million international).
6. **"Peter Rabbit,"** $6.8 million ($4.8 million international).
7. **"Death Wish,"** $6.6 million ($3 million international).
8. **"The Hurricane Heist,"** $3.2 million ($1.9 million international).
9. **"Annihilation,"** $3.2 million.
10. **"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle,"** $2.8 million.

One-time star 'American Idol' tries for a second act on ABC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In its heyday, "American Idol" dominated television and online chatter. It even inspired a New Yorker cartoonist.

"The voices in my head want to sing on 'American Idol,'" a patient confides to his shrink in a 2006 Leo Cullum panel, proof of its cultural imprint.

Two years after the singing contest ended its run on Fox amid dwindling ratings and steep production costs, it's getting the chance to prove itself again in an ABC version debuting 8 p.m. EST Sunday. In the early episodes, the show is marginally revised and instantly familiar.

This "American Idol" retains the show's original host, Ryan Seacrest, along with the same logo and production companies. Also intact is the goal of finding a music star—one such as Carrie Underwood, who built a blockbuster career after winning "Idol" in 2005 and whose voice-over opens the ABC show.

The reboot's early episodes include pre-taped auditions held in cities including New York; Savannah, Georgia; Los Angeles and New Orleans. We see, as before, crowds of would-be contestants eager to prove they have what it takes for a "golden ticket to Hollywood" and next-round tryouts.

"There's been a lot of talk about how is this show different," Seacrest said at a news conference with next-generation judges Luke Bryan, Katy Perry and Lionel Richie. "You've got three different faces. You have different contestants. But to change the show drastically in terms of format, I think, would be a mistake."

AP

This image released by ABC shows, from left, Lionel Richie, Katy Perry, Ryan Seacrest and Luke Bryan in New York. Richie, Perry and Bryan are the judges on the next season of "American Idol," premiering March 11 on ABC.

(The show arrives under a #MeToo shadow for Seacrest. A woman who worked as his wardrobe stylist at E! News nearly a decade ago suggested he engaged in inappropriate behavior, which Seacrest has denied. The E! channel said an investigation found insufficient evidence to support the claims.)

For the judges, the new "American Idol" represents a chance to put their stamp on a job held by a succession of celebrity panelists.

"I think we can inspire people and show people how it's done too, in our own way," Bryan told The Associated Press.

Richie said the goal is to find more than a singer: "We are looking for an artist, and that's going to require our expertise."

The judges also may help the contestants set new goals, Perry said.

'Wolf of Wall Street' film company to pay $60-million settlement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The production company behind "The Wolf of Wall Street" has agreed to pay the U.S. government $60 million to settle claims it benefited from a massive Malaysian corruption scandal.

The settlement between prosecutors and Red Granite Pictures Inc. was approved Thursday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

The case was part of an effort to recover more than $1 billion prosecutors said was stolen from 1MDB, a Malaysian-owned investment fund. The Department of Justice said the complex money laundering scheme was intended to enrich top-level officials of the fund, including some close to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Money was diverted from the fund to buy properties in New York and California, a $35 million jet, art by Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet, and a $260 million yacht.

Proceeds also went to fund movies by Red Granite Pictures, which was co-founded by the stepson of Razak.

The funds financed the Martin Scorsese-directed "The Wolf of Wall Street," which starred Leonardo DiCaprio in a film about the excesses of a crooked stock trader. The settlement also included forfeiture claims to the rights of "Dumb and Dumber To" and "Daddy's Home."

The film production company said in a statement that it was happy to put the matter behind it so it could focus on filmmaking.

The 1MDB case is the largest single action the Justice Department has taken under efforts to recover foreign bribery proceeds and embezzled funds and several other lawsuits are pending. Other countries including Singapore and Switzerland are conducting probes.

Reward posted for Picasso print taken from Milwaukee firm

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A fine art appraisal firm is offering a $5,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of stolen artwork by Pablo Picasso.

The original 1949 print was stolen last month from DeLind Fine Art Appraisals, LLC in downtown Milwaukee. DeLind Fine Art Appraisals co-owner Michael Goforth announced that the company is offering the reward for the print, which is worth up to an estimated $50,000.

Picasso did only 30 of the prints and signed each with a green pencil in the lower right corner.

Anyone with information about the theft or the etching and aquatint is asked to contact the Milwaukee Police Department or FBI.

Church of Scientology readies to launch a TV network

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Church of Scientology is about to get its own television channel starting Monday.

A Twitter handle, website and app for Scientology TV appeared Sunday posting updates to hype the network's availability on DIRECTV, AppleTV, Roku, fireTV, Chromecast, iTunes and Google Play.

A tweet Sunday from the ScientologyTV account says, "It's time for us to tell our story."

Scientology has been the subject of a handful of high-profile projects investigating its alleged abuses of former members including Leah Remini's A&E docuseries "Scientology and the Aftermath" and Alex Gibney's Emmy-winning documentary, "Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief."

The website scientology.tv says the Scientology Network will debut on at 8 p.m. eastern on Monday although it was not made clear what kind of programming the network will feature.

Colin Firth's wife admits she had affair with her alleged stalker

By PETER SBLENDORIO
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

It's not the plot of a Hollywood drama—Colin Firth's wife confirms she waged an affair with a man she claims stalked her.

Livia Giuggioli, who's been married to Firth for more than 20 years, admitted to her past relations with journalist Marco Brancaccia after he asserted to British newspaper The Times that Giuggioli made up the harassment allegations to cover up their romantic involvement.

Firth, 57, and Giuggioli, 48, are now confirming her affair with Brancaccia did take place, but contend the journalist's harassment began later on.

"A few years ago Colin and Livia privately made the decision to separate," a representative for Firth and Giuggioli said in a statement to the Daily News. "During that time Livia briefly became involved with former friend Mr. Brancaccia. The Firths have since reunited.

"Subsequently, Mr. Brancaccia carried out a frightening campaign of harassment over several months, much of which is documented," the statement continued. "As a consequence of his stalking, threats and refusal to desist, the legal complaint was lodged with the Italian authorities."

Brancaccia, 55, claims his relationship with Giuggioli occurred from 2015 to 2016. Giuggioli's allegations against the journalist, who works for an Italian press agency, prompted an investigation in Italy.

Brancaccia told The Times that Giuggioli "wanted to leave Colin for me."

"My 'stalking' consisted of two messages via WhatsApp after she ended our relationship in June 2016, and an email," Brancaccia told the newspaper. "I wrote an email to Colin about my relationship with Livia, which I now regret sending, and she filed a complaint against me for stalking out of fear that I could go public with what she had revealed to me about her marriage and work."

He adds that he received "hundreds of messages of love, photos and videos, even a diary" from Giuggioli spanning a year's time at one point.

Firth and Giuggioli, who wed in 1997, have a pair of teenage sons together.

'Veep' creator: I could never reach 'giddy heights' of Trump

TORONTO (AP)—How different was Stalin-era 1950s Russia to the Washington D.C. of "Veep"? For "Veep"-creator Armando Iannucci, there were more similarities than you might think.

In his second feature film, "The Death of Stalin," some quite funny people (Steve Buscemi, Jeffrey Tambor, Simon Russell Beale) play some of the more fear-inducing names in 20th century history. When Stalin dies, it's a mad rush for power (Buscemi's Nikita Khrushchev comes running in his pajamas) and a race for the mantle of 'reformer' after years of purges, murders and imprisonments.

Yet the satirical ballet of hapless government strivers will be familiar to those who know Ianuncci's other farces ("In the Loop," ''The Thick of It"). It's just that the consequences for losing step with the party line are a tad direr.

"If you say the wrong thing or back the wrong person, you might be out of power," said Iannucci in an interview. "But being outside of power can mean being dead, so there's that added tension. You don't just retire and open up a library. You're shot."

"The Death of Stalin," which opened in theaters Friday, is Iannucci's first post-"Veep" project. He departed after the first four seasons. When it was announced in early September that the acclaimed HBO season will end with its seventh season, he applauded David Mandel for "bringing her safely home."

AP

This image released by IFC Films shows, from left, Dermot Crowley, Paul Whitehouse, Steve Buscemi, Jeffrey Tambor and Paul Chahidi in a scene from "The Death of Stalin."

But while "Death of Stalin" might be a kind of comrade to "Veep," it also charts a different path for Iannucci. The movie, he feels, resonates particularly in the Donald Trump era, and, more than any of Iannucci's previous work, connects insular political maneuvering with its often tragic results for the populace.

AP: This is a fairly brutal time period for a comedy.

Iannucci: I was keen to make sure of that, yes, we see these people and the decisions they make within the Kremlin, but I also wanted to show how these decisions impacted people on the outside. There's no shying away from that. So you do see people rounded up. People are killed. People are taken away. And you never see those people again. So it was always about going inside, behind closed doors, and then going outside and seeing the effect of what's just happened. I wanted the audience to feel a little bit of what every Russian must have felt on a daily basis: Will I get through the day?

AP: Do you think history remembers its figures too seriously and soberly? The Kremlin leaders of your film are uncouth, petty and often thoughtless.

Iannucci: They're human. They're not superhuman. And I think a lot of them are either deluded themselves or are persuaded by others to think that they are superhuman. When they find out that they're human, that's when things unravel. In 'The Death of Stalin,' these are people who think they're powerful and therefore they're in complete control. It's fear of not having power that drives them.

AP: Where do you get your interest in the comedy of politics?

Iannucci: It affects everything you do. It's so important. And therefore I'm fascinated with how it happens. That's it, really. But I also want people to get that vague sense of finding out how important it is. When it goes wrong, it goes very badly wrong. We have this golden view of democracy. We think now that we've arrived at democracy, it's going to stay here forever. Well, no. Get it ever so slightly wrong, just tip it a slightly different way and you end up with authoritarianism and autocracy.

AP: How do you think the Trump administration compares to your political comedies?

Iannucci: I don't think I could ever reach the giddy heights of the inspired comedy and tragedy that's happening now in Washington. I mean, it's mesmerizing to watch but it's also scary. For me, the scariest thing about it is all those people who were so absolutely opposed to him before he got elected, and then have just drifted away and kept quiet. It goes back to: We've always got to be vigilant about democracy because it can go wrong.

Woman irked when co-worker mimics her distinctive style

DEAR ABBY: I have been trying to get healthy for years and recently lost a lot of weight. Every job I have, I work with grossly obese women. At my present job, one of them keeps coming to work dressed like me. It has happened before and I am sick of it. You have no idea how insulting it is to come to work, ready to do my job and find myself in this embarrassing situation. I just started working here and I need the job.

To me, this is a form of harassment, and I don't understand where she's coming from. It's not my problem if she is unhappy with her self-image. I like myself; I mind my own business and do my work. Also, I worked in fashion for years. If she wants my fashion expertise, she should pay me for it. Copying the way I dress is not a compliment. It's identity theft. She is not me. I do not appreciate her imitating me. Please help!

ONE OF A KIND IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ONE OF A KIND: I'll try, but it may not be the kind of help you're asking for. Have you never heard the saying, "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery"? It's a principle the fashion industry is based upon. Instead of being offended and angry, why not help the woman by offering to assist her in making distinctive fashion choices of her own? I'm sure she'd welcome it, and I'm also sure it would lighten and brighten the atmosphere in your workplace.

DEAR ABBY: My mom was involved in a serious car accident a while back that required multiple surgeries and hospital stays. She's still dealing with the repercussions.

The problem is that she doesn't seem to have learned from it. She still texts and looks at her phone while driving. It has reached the point where I refuse to ride with her or allow her to drive my child in her car.

I've asked her repeatedly to not use her phone while driving, but she seems to think she's invincible even after having proof she's not. What should I do to make her understand she's putting herself in danger again, not to mention those who ride with her?

CONCERNED DAUGHTER

DEAR CONCERNED: Because your mother didn't learn after the accident she caused by not turning off her cellphone, it's time to accept that nothing you say will change her. Continue to refrain from riding with her or allowing your child to. And pray that if she causes another collision, she doesn't kill herself or someone else.

DEAR ABBY: We love to open our windows and enjoy the fresh air during the wintertime in Florida. One neighbor sits out back and smokes and the other one smokes on his front porch, which makes it impossible to open our windows without smoke drifting in. I realize they have rights, but why can't we enjoy our home too? What would you do?

FRESH AIR IN FLORIDA

DEAR FRESH AIR: I'd consult an air conditioning company and describe the problem. Some restaurants that have smoking patios keep the cigarette smoke from annoying patrons inside by installing a fan above the entrance. The forced air blows straight down and serves as a barrier not only to smoke, but also to flying insects.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

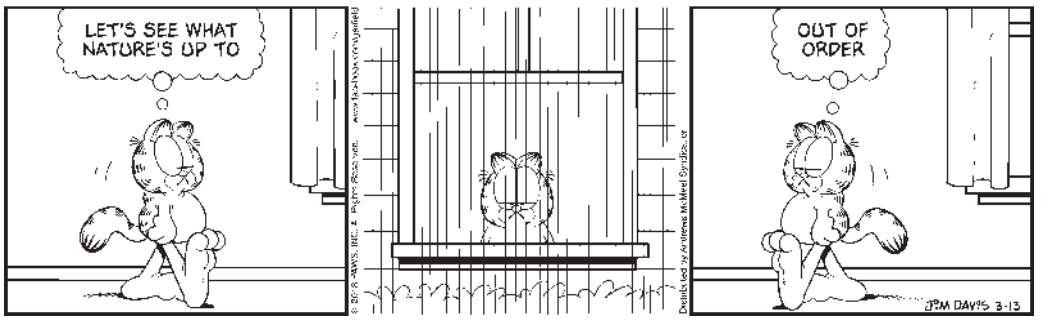
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THIS BOOK SAYS TIGERS ARE SOLITARY AND SECRETIVE CREATURES.
TRUE. VERY TRUE.
SECRETIVE?
OH, SURE! YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE SOME OF THE SECRETS I KNOW.
REALLY?? LIKE WHAT?
I CAN'T TELL YOU. THEY'RE SECRETS.
YOU CAN TELL ME! I WON'T BLAB! HONEST! TELL ME! PLEASE??
BIG SECRETS! SECRET SECRETS! BOY, IF YOU ONLY KNEW! MM-MM!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



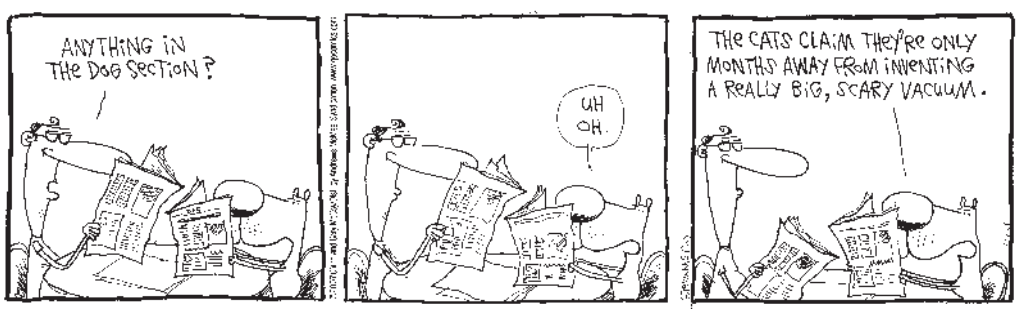
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM, YOU'RE SO TIRED!
I'M IGNORING YOU, COUCH.
IT'S RAINING OUT! JUST REST YOUR EYES.
NO!
I HAVE WORK TO DO AND I WON'T BE TRICKED BY YOU AGAIN.
BUT I HAVE OVERSTUFFED CUSHIONS! AND THROW PILLOWS!
SIGH. I JUST HAD TO WORK FROM HOME.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

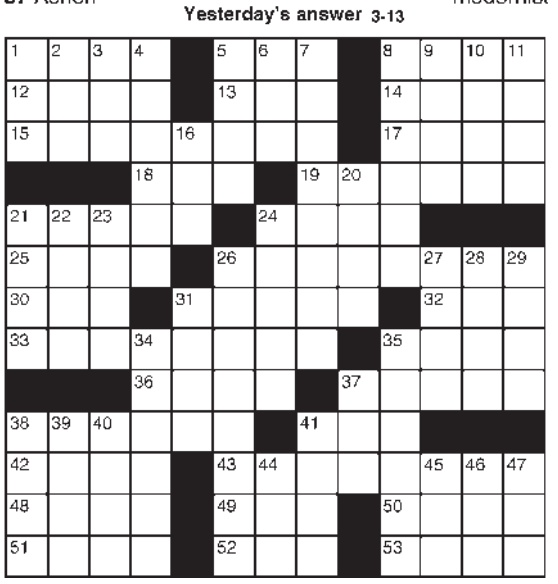
ACROSS
1 Prejudice
5 Sea, to Henri
8 Voucher
12 Bullets
13 Metal source
14 "Funny!"
15 Pablo Picasso, for one
17 Oodles
18 Part of NIMBY
19 Poland's continent
21 Poet Nash
24 Bit of banter
25 Dorm alternative
26 Specific period
30 Fish propeller
31 Serious
32 2016 Olympics city
33 All aglitter
35 Coop group
36 LAX postings
37 Ashen
38 Nobel-winning Mother
41 Coffee vessel
42 Saharan
43 Years on earth
48 Gimlet garnish
49 Altar promise
50 Aachen article
51 Scratched (out)
52 Curved letter
53 Toy block name

DOWN
1 Some coll. degrees
2 Little rascal
3 Docs' bloc
4 Shake-speare poem
5 Castle defense
6 Mess up
7 Cashed in
8 Astrolo-ger's aids
9 Angelic light
10 Denny's rival
11 London gallery
16 Charged bit
20 Manual reader
21 Does in, mob-style
22 Clench
23 Comic Carvey
24 Agrees (with)
26 Fibbed
27 Corp. VIP
28 "If it — broke ..."
29 Inquis-itive
31 USMC ranks
34 Re-quired
35 Gretel's brother
37 Season opener?
38 Yarn
39 Actor Estrada
40 Frost
41 Sci-fi fleet
44 Check-cashing needs
45 Slapstick missile
46 Director Lee
47 Ultra-modernist

Solution time: 22 mins.

T	U	G		T	W	I	S	T		N	F	L
O	F	A		R	E	N	T	A		O	R	E
N	O	B	R	A	I	N	E	R		T	E	E
			F	D	R		A	M	P	L	E	R
V	E	N	D	E	D		M	A	R	Y		
E	M	O		R	O	W		C	O	Z	E	N
P	I	C	H		S	A	L		W	O	M	A
P	L	O	A	T		S	A	D		N	U	T
		M	I	R	A		T	A	L	E	S	E
P	U	M	P	A	P		R	N	A			
E	R	E		N	O	B	I	G	D	E	A	L
T	A	N		C	R	A	N	E		L	S	U
A	I	T		F	T	I	F	R		M	F	G

Yesterday's answer 3-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Clayton, 58; Dana Delany, 62; William H. Macy, 68; Neil Sedaka, 79.

Happy Birthday: Look for better ways to invest your money. Making up for past losses will ease your stress and help you secure your current lifestyle. Taking better care of your emotional, physical and mental health will require positive changes in your daily routine that will help you shape up and look and feel your very best. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 26, 34, 37, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Chitchat will bring you one step closer to what you want. Be open to suggestions and willing to offer advice. Working alongside people who share your beliefs and motives will help you avoid criticism. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Think big, but be cautious. Inch your way forward, making sure every move is detailed and precise. Recognize your competition and be prepared to counter opposition. A new partnership will make a difference to the outcome. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Share what you know. You'll make a good impression on people you work for or with. Your enthusiasm and energetic approach to whatever you do will indicate what you have to offer. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put your creative energy to good use. Find a way to overcome a problem using the power of positive thought. Compliments and incentives will encourage favorable responses. Take measures to please, but make it clear what you want in return. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll feel more optimistic once you have done your research on something you want to pursue. Knowing exactly how much something costs will help. Try to get the support of someone you love before you proceed. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Anger will not help you avert the changes heading your way. Concentrate on what you can control and make the best of whatever situation you face. Connect with someone you've been able to rely on in the past for sound advice and support. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Interact with people who have something to offer in return. An interesting proposition will give you something new to consider. Find out more and you'll discover how you can improve your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* An emotional incident will leave you wondering how you really feel about someone. Take a trip down memory lane and you'll discover what draws you to this person. Consider the ups and downs before you share your thoughts. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Pour your energy into getting things done. The changes you make will lead to greater satisfaction. A commitment can be made, but before you sign up, find out what's expected of you. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Revisit an old interest and you will feel revitalized. Don't fight change, but don't give in to anyone who tries to coerce you into something that won't benefit you. Take a unique approach to a job you are handed. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look at your options and find different ways to handle your cash or boost your income by incorporating new skills and services. Invest in yourself and find out what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let others know what you are up to. Make personal changes that give you a trendy look or that bring you up to date with the latest gadgets, technology or knowledge. Being well-informed and looking the part will pay off. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious, innovative and quick. You are astute and playful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1		9				3		
				4			8	
6		3		2	5			9
		1	7					
	9						1	
					9	2		
8			4	7		6		1
	2			6				
		6				4		5

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	9	8	1	4	7	2	5	6
4	6	1	3	5	2	8	9	7
5	7	2	9	6	8	1	4	3
8	4	5	6	2	1	3	7	9
7	2	9	4	8	3	6	1	5
1	3	6	5	7	9	4	8	2
9	5	3	2	1	4	7	6	8
6	1	7	8	3	5	9	2	4
2	8	4	7	9	6	5	3	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CHECKS Solution: 5 letters

S	T	F	E	C	N	T	E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	R
E	I	R	O	U	U	O	F	U	N	D	S	H	B	E
Q	E	G	A	R	S	R	T	A	D	B	S	O	E	D
U	F	N	N	D	G	S	R	E	R	A	N	L	U	R
E	R	I	U	A	E	E	I	E	C	D	I	D	L	O
N	E	K	M	T	T	F	R	I	N	B	L	S	A	G
T	T	N	B	E	I	U	N	Y	O	C	A	E	V	O
I	N	A	E	T	S	O	R	M	P	P	Y	M	O	L
A	U	B	R	A	R	A	E	E	O	A	E	A	U	A
L	O	E	E	T	T	S	R	R	L	N	Y	N	C	N
E	C	R	C	E	R	E	S	S	U	B	E	E	H	O
D	T	E	N	O	W	T	T	B	T	C	A	Y	E	S
G	L	O	D	A	A	A	N	K	U	O	E	Y	R	R
E	M	N	R	K	L	A	S	E	R	T	P	S	A	E
R	E	D	E	E	M	E	D	E	P	O	S	I	T	P

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Banking, Bond, Cash, Certified, Counterfeit, Currency, Date, Deposit, Draft, Drawer, Electronic, Employer, Endorse, Forgery, Funds, Hold, Issue, Laser, Ledger, Logo, Mobile, Monetary, Money, Names, Note, Number, Open, Order, Payable, Payee, Personal, Redeemed, Secure, Sequential, Signature, Stake, Stale, Stop, Stub, Trade, Treasurer, Value, Voucher

Yesterday's Answer: Smiling

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51,** order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Building & Grounds Maintenance. $7.05-$7.25/hr. Mail resume to Pacific International Marianas, Inc. dba Midway Motors. P.O. Box 500887, Saipan MP 96950.

WHATZIT Solution:
Daddy Longlegs

share the power of a wish.
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at: Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474 • Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org
Saipan Tribune

ROSE BBQ - CHEAP CUT
GARAPAN, SAIPAN

(1) COOK

Email application at:
merchantthompson@yahoo.com

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Store Keeper - Atleast High School Graduate and with 2 yrs. experience. Trustworthy and willing to work flexible time.

Submit applications to:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp. dba
Pena House Boutique/Iridescent Boutique
Tel. (670)235-7270/233-6886

Charm Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Engine Marine Mechanic
• Must have 2 years experience and able to inspect, repair, replace engine and machinery

(1) Beautician Manager
• Must have 2 years experience, knowledgeable in Skin Care and manage/operate a salon

(2) Beautician
• Must have 3 years experience, knowledgeable in all salon services.

Interested applicants, please call 233-9391 or submit resume to P.O. Box 503332, Saipan MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Mail Courier
• Must have driver's license. Responsible to pick up all order from Monday to Saturday in main post office, deliver to private post office in safe and timely manner. Experience fabricate and make metal key to control boxes.

Accountant/Account Receivable
• Must have a College Degree/Business Administration with at least 5 years experience.
• Analyzes collection report to determine status of collection and outstanding balances of evaluate effectiveness of current collection policies and procedures. Modifies procedures if necessary.
• Prepares and submit monthly aging and account receivables report to management. Must know how to drive.
• Operate computer programmed with accounting software.

Email resume to: Irmaramba0621@gmail.com
Mail Express Inc.
PMB 719 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Inventory Management Associate
• 3-5 years experience, hardworking, and knowledgeable in inventory specially count shipment from main post office ordering from box holder.

Email resume to: Irmaramba0621@gmail.com
Mail Express Inc.
PMB 719 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950

QCM, LLC.

Is seeking for the following:
(6) Construction Workers
U.S. only with 5 years experience in multiple trades.
Must have own reliable transportation, no housing, no insurance. Minimum wage.

Send references, police clearance and resume to QCM, LLC. at
PMB 3602 Box 10001,
Saipan, MP 96950.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Medical Sales Representative

Job Duties:
Arrange meetings and appointments with clients; promote company's products and services; build and maintain a positive work relationship with clients, suppliers and manufacturers; prepare and submit weekly activity reports, monthly progress reports and quarterly sales reports and marketing plans. Keep a detailed and organized record of clients and contacts. Maintain an organized record of all sales activities. Stay informed about the activities of clinics, hospitals and other health care.

Qualification Requirements:
Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Biomedical Engineering or related science and medical field. Work experience in sales for a minimum of 3 years in medical field; strong interpersonal and communications skills; highly proficient in the use of Microsoft office applications; independent and requires less supervision; must have a valid CNMI driver's license; aggressive and hardworking.

Interested applicants may email a copy
of their resume and police clearance to ruth.feril@medpharmusa.net
or fax to 670.235-5418

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2 Housekeepers

Applicants should be able to perform light to moderate cleaning duties to maintain private households or commercial establishments, in a timely and orderly manner. Ability to perform duties like cooking, making beds, climb short ladders, cleaning restrooms, kitchens, rooms and halls. MUST BE ABLE to work nights/weekends/holidays. Additional requirements: Fluent in English, be of good moral character, must be able to follow required grooming standards, provide current police clearance and have some previous housekeeping experience.

Send resume to Spring Valley Manpower Agency
P.O. Box 501120, Saipan MP 96950 • 670-234-8445
jeansablan@hotmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Instant "Massive" BINGO

INSTANT MASSIVE BINGO - SITE OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

A site operations supervisor shall be in charge of all Bingo operations on site. Manages the day-to-day operations including but not limited to cash management, manpower management, vendor management, purchasing management, assets and supplies management and site business relations management. Primarily in-charge of the site's profitability.

Duties and Responsibilities:
- Handles and manages day-to-day Bingo operations such as attending to the daily cash count, ensuring proper implementation of site's standard operating procedures, organizing the staff schedule, handling and resolving staff/players concerns, and reporting site-related issues.
- Compiles, updates and keeps safe all site legal documents (i.e. application of site legal documents such as Business Permits, Lease Contract Renewals, etc.)
- In charge of identification, proper assignment and hiring of manpower needs.
- Assists purchasing by identifying potential vendors, and if needed, gathering of 3 quotations.
- Ensures proper implementation and execution of marketing promotions and activities in coordination with his/her respective Site Marketing Officer.
- Compiles, consolidates and submits required reports as needed by management.
- Handles all check requisitions, Petty Cash Fund, supplies budget and other operations related finances.
- Assists roll out in locating and identifying new potential sites.
- Attends weekly (or as needed) Operations Meeting with the management.

Qualifications:
Education: College Graduate preferred (Management or business-related courses). Lengthy work experience may offset a College Degree.

Work Experience:
- Has worked with and managed an organization or project (advantage)
- Has good performance as a Bingo assistant or cashier (advantage)
- Willing to work irregular hours and overtime
- Must be creative, outgoing, with strong communication skills and initiative
- Strong Bingo and player knowledge or has experience in a retail or service industry with strong customer relations
- Must be independent and can work under stress with minimum supervision Technical Competencies
- Knowledge in Microsoft Office Suite of Applications
- Knowledge in basic computer hardware and software applications
- Knowledge of Bingo games and simple management systems

Other Skills/Competencies
- Above average interpersonal skills – can relate to people from different levels
- People management skills
- Creativity

Annual Salary: $23,000 - $25,000

Applicants must provide a current Resumé with 3 employment references and 3 character references.

Forward Resumés (CV) with references to imb.operations@gmail.com

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI
sunnova

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Residential and Commercial Solar Energy/Electrical Construction Manager

Our firm is looking for the right candidate to help grow our firm and take our company to the next level

Overview
The Residential / Commercial Electrical Construction Manager is part of the project team and is fully responsible for the oversight and management of the project cycle for both Residential and Commercial projects. This includes: project planning, including defining schedule and budgets which meet contract requirements; support of the design process through plan-check and permitting; aiding the Project Manager in defining elements of work and soliciting bids for subcontracted work where necessary; providing direction and supervision of all field activities related to the physical construction; supporting Project Manager in managing the project budget, cash flow, and schedule through the project cycle; oversight of the data management for all project data flows including submittals, RFI's etc.; oversight for all quality and safety requirements on the project; materials and equipment planning and requisition; and planning/management for all general conditions requirements to successfully install the project on-time and within budget, while maintaining required levels for quality and safety.

The Residential / Commercial Electrical Construction Manager is also responsible for ensuring appropriate levels of workers are on site to ensure adequate progress of work, coordination of trades and overall project completion to meet contractual commitments. The Residential / Commercial Electrical Construction Manager reports to the Operation Director of the company.

Responsibilities
- Manage the project cycle for residential / commercial Electrical and PV projects
- Support the design process and permit submittal
- Oversee all field teams and installation progress
- Oversee the Project Manager in defining elements of work and development of subcontracts
- Support the bid process for subcontracted work
- Oversee Project Manager in the development and management project budgets
- Oversee Project Manager to develop and manage the project schedule using MS Project
- Manage daily logs and timesheets for project
- Organize and manage all project data and archive
- Coordinate the work of subcontractors on site
- Acquire subcontract labor, materials or equipment to ensure timely completion of the project
- Conduct site audits for new projects
- Additional duties required as needed

Qualifications
- A minimum of five years of experience in construction of residential and commercial electrical or solar energy projects.
- In-depth knowledge of electrical construction products, practices, subcontracting and project work flow/sequencing
- Certified Project Manager (CPM) certification preferred
- Experience in similar capacity on a project team for commercial projects directing crews or tradesmen in general construction, assembly and/or electrical work
- Detailed knowledge of construction budgets and schedules
- Knowledge of major PV components (PV modules, inverters and racking systems, etc.) preferred
- Ability to lead craftsmen and construction crews
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Excellent customer service skills requires
- Must have a clean driving record. (Example, no DUI in the last 5 years)
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving and drug screen
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license

Benefits for Full-Time Positions
- Competitive compensation
- Paid training
- Full benefits package including health, vision, and dental insurance
- Attractive vacation and holiday pay
- Employee referral program
- Career path opportunities for top performers

Please email your resume to: scarbonneau@micronesiarenewableenergy.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

MRE is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer committed to diversity in the workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, gender identity or any other factor protected by applicable federal, or US Territorial laws.

Duenas Camacho & Associates, Incorporated
has an opening for:

One (1) Survey Instrument Man

Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Geodetic Engineering (may be foreign equivalent); two (2) years experience as a Survey Instrument Man, and working knowledge of conventional and GPS survey instruments and land surveying computation/coordinate geometry software.

Duties: Performs land survey-related data and document research. Conducts field cadastral, topographic and/or as-built surveys on assigned projects. Operates survey instruments during the conduct of assigned survey work. Organizes and takes survey field notes according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. Downloads and assist in the plotting of data from data collectors according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. Uses computer-based land survey software applications to perform land survey-related computations. Works and coordinates with engineers and environmental scientists to satisfy survey requirements on engineering design and environmental projects.

If interested, send resume to Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Incorporated by email to dca@dcaguam.com or by fax at 670-234-3824. Proof of qualifications required.

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI
sunnova

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Solar Energy/Electrical Installation Technician

Overview
Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc. is seeking applicants to install residential grid-tied and off grid Solar PV systems. In this position, the PV Installer will provide support to the crew lead of the installation team, communicate job status data to the operations management, and ensure the completion of installation of all solar arrays/systems. It is the responsibility of every Installer to ensure safe work practices for the MRE installation team.

Responsibilities
- Pulling inventory for each installation job
- Pre-assemble job components in the warehouse
- Layout and assembly of solar modules / array and mounting hardware
- Mechanical/structural mounting of racking, modules and electrical equipment
- Electrical wiring of solar array/system (AC and DC)
- Document completion of completed installation
- Cleanup of job site
- Attend mandatory training sessions on new products, installation methodology and safety
- Additional duties required as needed

Qualifications
- 1 year of roof work, general construction, or Electrical required
- Previous solar experience strongly preferred
- Must be able to lift 50lbs
- Ability to work in extreme environments (example: heat, sun, etc)
- Must be willing and able to climb ladders, stairs, work on rooftops and able to work on your feet for long periods of time
- Basic computer skills including familiarity with Microsoft Office programs
- High school diploma or GED required
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Excellent customer service skills required
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving and drug screen
- Must have a clean driving record (example- no DUI in the last 5 years)
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license
- Thrive in a team environment

Benefits for Full-Time Positions:
- Above Market Competitive compensation with many positions incentivized
- Paid training with Micronesia's leader in solar power
- Full benefits package including health, vision, and dental insurance after 90 days of employment
- Employee referral program
- Career path opportunities for top performers

Please email your resume to: scarbonneau@micronesiarenewableenergy.com
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Woods ties for second, Casey wins at Valspar

AP
Paul Casey tees off on the 17th hole during the final round of the Valspar Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 11, 2018, in Palm Harbor, Fla.

ALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—A long victory drought on the PGA Tour finally ended Sunday, just not the one a raucous crowd was expecting. Paul Casey closed with a 6-under 65 and won the Valspar Championship, but only after watching from the locker room as Tiger Woods came up one putt short of forcing a playoff. It was the closest Woods has come to winning in nearly five years.

Casey, who started the final round five shots behind, ran off three straight birdies early on the back nine at Innisbrook to take the lead, and he closed with four par saves to post at 10-under 274.

No one caught him, giving him his second PGA Tour title and his first since the Houston Open in 2009.

Patrick Reed was tied for the lead and appeared headed for a playoff at worst until his approach to the 18th came back down the slope, and his 45-foot birdie putt was so weak that it rolled all the way back to his feet. He three-putted for bogey and a 68.

Woods and his massive following went dormant after an opening birdie to briefly share the lead. He went 15 holes without a birdie until he brought Innisbrook to life with a birdie putt from just inside 45 feet that died into the cup at the par-3 17th, leaving him one shot behind with one hole to play.

Woods played conservatively with an iron off the 442-yard, uphill closing hole on the Copperhead course. From 185 yards, his approach came up some 40 feet short, and his birdie putt to force a playoff was 2 feet short.

He closed with a 70—the first time since The Barclays in 2013 that he posted all four rounds under par on the PGA Tour—and tied for second. That was his best finish since he tied for second at that Barclays tournament, right about the time his back started to give out.

Casey had gone 132 starts on the PGA Tour since winning in Houston, though he had won five times worldwide, including the European Tour's flagship event at the BMW PGA Championship. He had seven top 5s in the FedEx Cup playoffs over the last three years.

Someone always played better—until Sunday.

Corey Conners, the Canadian rookie who started the final round with a one-shot lead, fell back quickly after opening with a bogey on the easiest hole at Innisbrook. He shot 77 and tied for 16th.

Woods looked closer than ever to winning in his remarkable return from fusion surgery on his lower back last April. Each week has been a little better. He has been a factor on Sunday the last two tournaments, and a gallery that stood 10-deep around just about every green could sense it.

He just couldn't deliver after a two-putt birdie on the par-5 opening hole.

"I didn't feel that sharp with my iron game," Woods said. "I played conservatively into the green because I wasn't as sharp as yesterday. It was one of those days I kept getting half-clubs."

He missed birdie chances on both par 5s on the back nine, pulling a wedge into the rough at No. 11 and three-putting from 80 feet on No. 14. He missed a couple of putts in the 15-foot range. And right when it looked as though he was out of chances, he ran into the 45-foot birdie putt to keep everyone guessing.

Next up for Woods is the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill next week, which he hasn't played since winning five years ago. He is an eight-time winner at Bay Hill, and the euphoria over his return is sure to reach even higher decibels.

"I keep getting a little bit better," Woods said. "I had a good shot at winning this golf tournament. A couple putts here and there, it could have been a different story."

Reed will look back on one putt.

He opened with a 60-foot eagle putt that slammed into the pin on No. 1 and was never far from the lead, tying Casey with a bold fairway metal onto the fringe at the 14th that set up birdie. He was in the middle of the fairway on the 18th. He twirled his club when the ball was in the air.

And then it all went wrong.

The putt up the hill never had a chance, and when it started rolling back at his feet, Reed beckoned it with his right hand. He used a wedge on the fourth shot, knowing he had to hole it for par to force a playoff.

That left Casey the winner, finally.

The 40-year-old from England had reason to believe his hopes ended on Saturday when he hit into the water on the 16th and made double bogey, falling five shots behind. He answered Sunday with all eyes on someone else—Woods—by going out in 33, and then getting rewarded for aggressive play. He got up-and-down from a bunker short of the green at No. 11 for birdie, stuffed his approach to a foot on No. 12 and then holed a 20-foot birdie from just off the green at No. 13.

Justin Rose, among six players who had a share of the lead at some point in the final round, had back-to-back bogeys on the back nine and never atoned for his mistakes. He closed with a 72 and finished three shots behind.

Chargers sign Casey Hayward to 3-year extension

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Casey Hayward got the raise he deserved after two standout seasons for the Chargers.

The Pro Bowl cornerback agreed to a three-year, $36 million contract extension with the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday.

The Chargers and Hayward's agent, David Mulugheta, confirmed the deal. NFL.com first reported the extension.

Hayward gets $20 million guaranteed after two Pro Bowl seasons for the Chargers, who signed him in San Diego as a free agent from Green Bay in 2016. The six-year pro has played in every game since moving to the West Coast, getting 11 total interceptions while drawing the toughest defensive assignments for the Chargers' much-improved defense last year.

"Got to thank the (at) Chargers and the Spanos family for everything," Hayward tweeted. "Believing in a guy everybody said was a NICKEL guy and giving him a chance to flourish outside. 3 more years and counting. Let's push for that ring."

Hayward had played his way into a starting role for the Packers in 2015 after beginning his career mostly as a slot defender, but Green Bay let him walk—and Hayward immediately became one of the NFL's best defensive backs with the Bolts. The website Pro Football Focus graded Hayward as the NFL's best coverage defender last season.

Hayward had one year remaining on his initial free-agent contract. He joins several key defensive players with the Chargers who are locked into long-term deals, including Joey Bosa, Melvin Ingram and Jahleel Addae.

After winning nine of their final 12 games and barely missing out on a playoff spot, the Chargers likely aren't looking to overhaul their defense during the free agent period. They hope to re-sign starting safety Tre Boston, but he could command top dollar on the market after his strong season.

Meanwhile, in Las Vegas, Cincinnati Bengals offensive tackle Eric Winston has been unanimously re-elected as president of the NFL players union, earning his third straight three-year term.

Winston, who is scheduled to become a free agent, ran unopposed for the position. The NFLPA Board of Player Representatives announced the result Sunday at the NFLPA's annual meetings.

New York Giants linebacker Mark Herzlich was elected as the union's treasurer.

Sam Acho (Bears), Thomas Morstead (Saints), Russell Okung (Chargers) and Michael Thomas (Saints) were voted to the executive committee, and they join returning members Lorenzo Alexander (Bills), Zak DeOssie (Giants), Richard Sherman (49ers), Adam Vinatieri (Colts) and Benjamin Watson (Ravens).

In East Rutherford, the New York Giants cut veteran cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie on Sunday.

Rodgers-Cromartie and the team failed to rework his contract, which called for him to make $6.5 million in salary and a cap hit of $8.5 million.

The 2017 season was a difficult one for the 10-year pro who didn't have an interception and was suspended for one game by then-coach Ben McAdoo for leaving practice without permission.

But Rodgers-Cromartie expressed his regret about leaving the franchise in a tweet Sunday.

"Once a Giant always a Giant right. Thanks for everything, Ima miss my dogs but y'all knw me, SEE BALL, GET BALL!!!"

Rodgers-Cromartie was a first-round draft pick out of Tennessee State by the Cardinals in 2008. He played three seasons for Arizona, getting 13 interceptions, returning two for touchdowns out of three he picked off in 2010. He scored four TDs for Arizona.

He then went to Philadelphia for two years, Denver for one before spending the last four seasons with New York.

Rodgers-Cromartie will be 32 in April.

Lakers snap 7-game losing skid against Cavs

AP
Los Angeles Lakers center Brook Lopez, left, blocks the shot of Cleveland Cavaliers guard Jordan Clarkson during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 11, 2018, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won, 127-113.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Julius Randle had a career-high 36 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists, and the Los Angeles Lakers auditioned for LeBron James' favor in free agency with a 127-113 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Sunday night.

Isaiah Thomas had 20 points, nine assists and five rebounds against his former teammates as the Lakers roared away from James and the defending Eastern Conference champions in the second half. With its sixth win in eight games overall, Los Angeles (30-36) emphatically snapped a seven-game losing streak against Cleveland.

James had 24 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Cavs, who have lost four of six after getting swept at Staples Center by the Clippers and Lakers.

Starting center Larry Nance Jr. had 24 points and eight rebounds, and Jordan Clarkson added four points in their first game against the Lakers since they were traded for Thomas and Channing Frye on Feb. 8.

Brook Lopez scored 22 points for the Lakers, and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 20.

Raptors 132, Knicks 106

In New York, Jonas Valanciunas scored 17 points, Kyle Lowry had 16 and the Toronto Raptors kept right on rolling after a big win two nights earlier, beating the New York Knicks for their season-high eighth straight victory.

The Raptors had no letdown after edging NBA-leading Houston on Friday in a matchup of the No. 1 teams in each conference, leading much of the game even with All-Star DeMar DeRozan shooting just 4 for 16 for nine points.

But seven Raptors finished in double figures in Toronto's 15th win in 16 games. The Raptors fell one point shy of their highest total of the season, set in a victory over Cleveland on Jan. 11.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 25 and Luke Kornet had 18 as the Knicks dropped their seventh straight game and 15th in the last 16.

Pacers 99, Celtics 97

In Boston, Victor Oladipo scored 27 points, then committed a dead-ball offensive foul with 1.5 seconds left that gave Boston a shot to win the game at the buzzer, but the Indiana Pacers held on to beat the depleted Celtics.

Myles Turner scored 19 points, including the game-winning basket with 21 seconds to play, and added 10 rebounds for Indiana, who survived the crazy ending to win for the fifth time in six games.

Boston led by 10 at halftime before point guard Kyrie Irving left the game with a sore left knee, joining absent big man Al Horford, who was home sick, and Jaylen Brown, who is in the concussion protocol.

After Boston rallied to tie 95-all with 37 seconds left, Turner gave the Pacers the lead again and, after Terry Rozier's miss, Indiana hit a pair of foul shots to take a four-point lead. With fans heading for the exits, Tatum hit a seemingly meaningless layup to cut the deficit to two points with only 1.5 seconds left. But before the ball could be inbounded, Oladipo was whistled when his elbow caught Marcus Morris in the face. A review confirmed the call.

Boston inbounded the ball to Rozier, who took a long 2-pointer that bounced off the near side of the rim.

Timberwolves 109, Warriors 103

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns helped Minnesota stop a season-longest three-game losing streak with 31 points and 16 rebounds, and the Timberwolves powered their way past Golden State down the stretch to hand the Warriors their second straight defeat without Stephen Curry.

Kevin Durant had 39 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors, who left Curry at home from this road trip to rest an injured right ankle and lost 125-108 to Portland on Friday.

Andrew Wiggins added 23 points for the Timberwolves, who lost twice on the road to the defending champion Warriors earlier this season by a combined 37 points. Curry had a collective plus-36 rating over those two games.

Klay Thompson had 21 points for the Warriors, but he went 3 for 12 from 3-point range.

Rockets 105, Mavericks 82

In Dallas, Eric Gordon scored 26 points and Chris Paul had 24 points and 12 assists as the Houston Rockets, playing without James Harden, beat the Dallas Mavericks.

The Rockets rested Harden because of a sore left knee, but had plenty of 3-point shooting even without their MVP candidate. Houston, which had its 17-game win streak snapped Friday in Toronto, broke the game open in the third quarter by hitting their first six 3s of the period amid a 22-10 run. The Rockets finished 17-for-45 from deep.

The Rockets moved 1 + games ahead of Golden State for the best record in the NBA after the Warriors lost to Minnesota earlier Sunday.

Dwight Powell led the Mavericks with 20 points, one short of his career high, on 9-of-11 shooting.

Nuggets 130, Kings 104

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 20 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his seventh triple-double of the season, Gary Harris added 21 points and the Denver Nuggets cruised past the Sacramento Kings.

Denver led by as many as 36 points while staying in the thick of the playoff chase. The Nuggets now enter a difficult stretch in their schedule—eight of their next nine games are on the road.

Buddy Hield scored 18 points, while former Nuggets player Kosta Koufos chipped in 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings, who play Monday night in Oklahoma City.

Bulls 129, Hawks 122

In Atlanta, Zach LaVine scored 21 points, including four free throws in the final 17 seconds to stop Atlanta's comeback, and the Chicago Bulls beat the injury-depleted Hawks.

Bobby Portis also had 21 points for Chicago.

The Hawks, already playing without injured point guard Dennis Schroder, lost Kent Bazemore to a right knee sprain and Jaylen Morris to a left ankle injury in the second quarter. Taurean Prince led Atlanta with a career-high 38 points. Mike Muscala also set a career high with 19 points.

Jazz 116, Pelicans 99

In New Orleans, Ricky Rubio had 30 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Utah overcame Anthony Davis' first career triple-double for a victory over the New Orleans Pelicans that extended the Jazz's winning streak to six.

Donovan Mitchell scored 27 points, including 15 during the last 3:08 of the third quarter to put Utah in front for good in what could be an important victory in a tightly packed race for one of the Western Conference's final five playoff spots. Rudy Gobert added 19 points and 16 rebounds, and Joe Ingles scored 20 for Utah, which has won 11 straight on the road.

Davis had 25 points, 11 rebounds and a career-high 10 blocks in his return from a sprained left ankle that sidelined him for one game. Jrue Holiday had 18 points and 10 assists for the Pelicans, but missed 12 of 19 shots, turned the ball over four times and struggled defensively.

76ers 120, Nets 97

In New York, Joel Embiid scored 21 points, Robert Covington added 19, and the Philadelphia 76ers routed the Brooklyn Nets.

Dario Saric scored 18 points and Ben Simmons had 11 points, six assists and six rebounds for the 76ers, who were able to avenge a disappointing loss to the Nets at Barclays Center in January.

D'Angelo Russell had 26 points for the Nets, who have lost 13 of their last 15 games.

Free agent ace Arrieta, Phillies reach 3-year deal

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—The Philadelphia Phillies made their boldest move yet.

Two people familiar with the decision tell The Associated Press that free-agent ace Jake Arrieta and the Phillies have agreed to a three-year deal.

Both people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Sunday because the contract is pending a physical. The deal is reportedly worth $75 million. NBC Sports Philadelphia first reported the agreement.

The 32-year-old righty was among several top free agents who didn't get a deal for six or seven years in a changing offseason market. The Phillies, who have plenty of money to spend, waited until the price was right for them.

Arrieta won the 2015 NL Cy Young Award with the Chicago Cubs and helped them win the World Series the next season. He was 14-10 with a 3.53 ERA last year.

Arrieta was 68-31 with a 2.73 ERA in five seasons in Chicago after starting his career in Baltimore. He'll join Aaron Nola atop the Phillies' rotation on a team that finished last in the NL East.

The Phillies haven't had a winning season since 2011, but now have added veteran slugger Carlos Santana, Arrieta and quality relievers to a young nucleus that could show considerable improvement over last season's 66-96 mark.

New manager Gabe Kapler's motto throughout spring training has been: "Be Bold." Players and coaches have been wearing T-shirts with those words on them and they've been using the phrase often in interviews.

Signing Arrieta is a message that management is ready to move past the rebuilding process.

The Phillies already have a lineup that has potential to be dynamic and a bullpen that could be formidable. Now they've added a proven No. 1 starter to a slew of young arms in the rotation.

Arrieta has started at least 30 games in three straight seasons, but he's only pitched more than 200 innings once—229 in 2015.

Arrieta had a 4.67 ERA in first 16 starts last season, but finished strong, going 7-4 with a 2.26 ERA in his final 14 outings.

Federer takes care of business, Djokovic crashes out

INDIAN WELLS—World No. 1 Roger Federer finished off Federico Delbonis in a rain-disrupted match on Sunday to reach the third round at Indian Wells as five-time champion Novak Djokovic was toppled.

Federer returned to stadium court on Sunday afternoon and needed an hour to close out his second-round victory 6-3, 7-6 (8/6).

"It's been a long time since I have been interrupted at night and have to come back the next day," Federer said.

His title defence got off to a soggy start Saturday night when play was suspended because of rain showers with Federer up a set and tied 2-2 in the second.

The clouds rolled in just before the start of their match on Saturday and after a short delay to start the first set they managed to play until the skies blackened and the heavy rains came in the second. After another 90-minute delay organizers suspended play for the night.

Federer is making his 17th appearance in the California desert and is assured of remaining world number one if he makes it to the semifinals.

He extended his 2018 win streak to 13 matches and has only dropped three sets from 34 played this year.

Federer hit five aces and won 74 percent of his first serve points in the match which took a total of one hour and 41 minutes over the two days.

He will face 25th-seed Filip Krajinovic in the third round.

Federer and 10th seed Djokovic both came into the tournament seeking to become the first six-time winner of the event.

But Djokovic fell at the first hurdle with a shock loss to Japanese qualifier Taro Daniel, who sent the out-of-sorts Serb tumbling with a hard-fought 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-1 victory.

It was another snag in the return for world number 13 Djokovic, who admitted he lacked composure while playing in just his second event of 2018 and first since having surgery.

Djokovic said it felt like the "first match I ever played on the tour."

"I mean, I just completely lost rhythm, everything," he said.

Djokovic is making a cautious return to the ATP Tour after stopping his 2017 season following Wimbledon due to a right elbow injury. He lost to Chung Hyeon in the Australian Open fourth round in January before undergoing the surgery.

Mafia leads inaugural SEDA gov't league

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amari's Bull-It players pose for a photo during a break in their C Division game in the SEDA Bud Light League.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty members celebrate their victory against the 6JMS Terminators in last week's matches in the A Division of the SEDA Bud Light League.

The 6JMS-sponsored Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Mafia jumped to an early lead in the inaugural Inter-Government League of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association-Bud Light 2018.

The Mafia, with Gilbert Gatmaitan at the helm, completed a 13-2 crushing of Jonny's The Gavels, whose wins were courtesy of Jason Santos and Jess Santos with the latter teaming up with Mike Salas in the last Partners event.

Naked Fish Niaowees defeated the Jonny's Dream Crushers, 10-5, to shadow the Mafia on top of the standings in the inter-government division.

Games were played last Friday with Jonny's Bar fielding two teams along with Naked Fish and 6JMS.

In other results, Proofers and Nakayoshi earned closed wins against Mafia, 10-7, and Pythons, 9-8. In the A division, Mafia, Roil Soil, and Scorpions recorded similar wins (10-7) against Gunners, Destroyers, and Predators, while Darrty and Proofers outclassed Terminators and Warriors, also in identical scores, 11-6.

In the Flame Tree B division, Kyodai coasted past Jumpt It, 14-1, while Darrty also eased its way to a 12-3 triumph over Real Deal. Na'Gupu and Drillers were the other winners in the division after prevailing against Dartaholics, 11-4, and Killaz, 8-7, respectively.

Results

Masters
- Proofers 10, Mafia 7
- Nakayoshi 9, Pythons 8
- Scorpions 10, Predators 7

A Division
- Darrty 11, Terminator 6
- Proofers 11, Warriors 6
- Mafia 10, Gunners 7
- Roil Soil 10, Destroyers7

Tuesday B
- D'Strikers 11, Thunder 4
- Chamberos 8, Empy 7
- Petmalu 9, Mafia 5

C Division
- Wettzide 11, Like A 4
- Bulls Hitters 9, River Shots 6
- Dart Vaders 8, Bull It 7
- Redarts 8, Werpa 7

Fanihi B
- Bandits 13, Desaten 2
- 80 Proofers 10, Warriors 5
- Darty Mind 9, Shaka 6

PungPang 8, Mafia III 7

Flame Tree B
- Kyodai 14, Jump It 1
- Darrty 12, Real Deal 3
- Na'Gupu 11, Dartaholics 4
- Drillers 8, Killaz 7

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 28

Merrick Toves led the way for Kanoa with his hat trick, while Sean Gil, Ian Karl Maniago, and Taehun Han contributed one goal each. Toves lit up the board first with his shot in the seventh minute, while Paire equalized in the 14th off Kaden Church's conversion. Toves went on to complete his hat trick when he made back-to-back goals, scoring in the 39th and 48th minute. Gil, Maniago, and Han had their goals in the 25th, 34th, and 69th minute, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the last game in the division, MP United remained undefeated after forcing Matansa to a draw, 2-2.

Matansa threatened to hand MP United its first loss of the season as the former built a 2-0 halftime lead. Razeff Altamirano and Lolobeyong Benito delivered the goals for Matansa in the fifth and 27th minute, respectively.

After a scoreless first half, MP United broke the curse, thanks to Christian Guerrero's shot in the 28th minute. MP United then went on to foil Matansa's upset bid after Oliver Fajardo knocked in the game-tying goal in the 40th.

In other results, MP United and Matansa's game in the boys U18 division at the Hopwood Middle School Field also ended in a draw, 2-2.

Anthony Fruit saved MP United's day when he hit the equalizer in the 80th minute, while Sunjoon Tenorio drilled the other goal for the squad in the 36th minute. Jether Yobech scored Matansa's first goal in the 30th minute and the team got an own goal in the second half.

In the first game in the division, TanHoldings dominated the National Development Team, 7-1.

Mark Esalan and Jonathan Capayas registered two goals each for TanHoldings, while John Collisao, John Paul Cruz, and Mareko Tekopua added one apiece. Hark Galario delivered the only goal for NDT.

'BOOM'

From Page 28

flyweight belt for his third win in eight matches.

Roman Alvarez then successfully defended the title after beating Guam's Robin Eclavea (1-3) by rear-naked-choke submission in the semi main event of a 13-fight card in ROP 22: Rampage last Sept. 15, 2017.

While Roman Alvarez is aiming to extend his reign in the division, Zaitsev, on the other hand, is still looking for his first win after three matches with all of his losses—against Mikhail Korobkov, Yadong Song, and Nikita Podlubniy—ending up by unanimous decisions.

He made his debut against Korobkov in ProFC 58: Battle of Champions on Nov. 8, 2015 in Russia and fought for the second time a few months after that loss when he faced Song in WLF-EPIC: Elevation Power in Cage last January 2016 in Henan, China. Zaitsev remained unlucky against Podlubniy, losing in MFP Amur Challenge 9 at the Grand Arena Ostrova, Blagoveshchensk Russia.

Meanwhile, ROP 23: Rampage will also feature two boxing matches, two kickboxing fights, and 10 other MMA bouts with "Pikaboo" also set to climb the cage against a still unnamed Korean warrior at 135 lbs.

TrenchTech founder Cuki Alvarez said the fight card is tentative and is still subject to changes, depending on the availability of each fighter.

Guam's Jason Henderson will face TrenchTech's Nick Cruz in a boxing match, while Jom Ibo is still shopping for an opponent at 145 lbs.

GuamMuayThai's Tonisha "Queen T" Cruz and Eric Lacambra will take on Jessme Jones and Atiron Norita in separate boxing matches, a preview for the 10-card MMA fights.

RedAntsAcademy's JBoy Langu will duel Steel Athletics' Angel Oliveras, while Zombie MMA's Manny "The Kid" Camacho will take on GMT's Don Lujan, and Team Tinian's Austin John King will clash with TrenchTech's Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho.

TrenchTech's Wildon Camacho and Ken Evans challenge Greg "Peskadude" Sasamoto and Sitchiro Langu, respectively, while Young Sam Son of Korean Top Team will test the mettle of Ryan "Trobz" Ngirbabul in a light heavyweight showdown.

Mark "The Dark" Nuique hopes to end a string of three straight losses when he collides with GMT's Austin Petrus, while Vince "The Clinch" Masga battles Shang Hyun Park of Team ACE Korea.

Roland Meno, Corey San Nicolas, Vince Torres, Misaki Kitami, Napu Reyes, Josh Muna, Austin Gaspay, Kyle Gumataotao, and Bradlee Manalili are all standby fighters with Cuki Alvarez still looking for their respective opponents.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

the women's 14-and-under category after checking in at 4:40:25. Other age group winners were 15 to 19's Min Yu (2:37:26), 30 to 39's Hui Zheng (2:03:31), 40 to 49's Xiaoqing Duan (2:14:35), and over 60's Changyub Lee (2:44:52).

In the men's division, Saipan had three runners earning age group first place medals with Renato Gaviola (1:55:43), John Michael Navarro (2:01:28), and barefoot Chang Whan Jang (1:50:53) dominating the 50 to 59, 14-and-under, and over 60 categories, respectively. China's Zehua Chen (1:50:34), Yang Li (1:45:25), Hongming Yang (1:37:44), and South Korea's Jin Gu Ha (1:39:10) reigned supreme in the 15 to 19, 20 to 29, 40 to 49, and 30 to 39 age groups.

Meanwhile, in the full marathon, Charlie Sendin averted a Saipan shutout in the Top 6 after placing second in the race that also started and ended at AMP with turnaround points at Banzai Cliff up north and PIC down south.

Sendin completed the 42.195K race in 3:40:47 to finish second behind Japan's Noriyasu Oda (3:37:51). The Saipan resident and Japanese runners were way ahead of the other Top 6 finishers—Japan's Ichiro Kubo (3:51:28) and Miyashita Masaki (3:58:20) and China's Weiyang Zhang (3:52:03) and Guo Ping Ang (3:55:00).

In the women's division, another Saipan resident, Heather Taylor, came out on top of her category after recording 3:43:27. The 30-year-old Taylor was the only runner in the women's Top 6 to break the four-hour mark in full marathon, as Yoshiko Yamamori was at distant second with a time of 4:03:59. China's Quizhen Tong (4:04:24), Shirong Pang (4:08:29), and Zhongxiu Wu (4:13:42), and the U.S' Heather Popa (4:15:52) rounded out the Top 6.

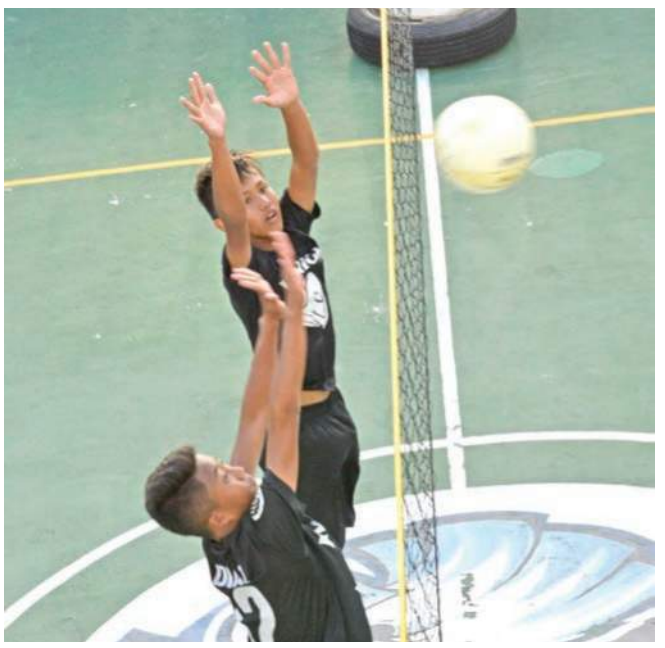
In the age group category, Saipan had two top finishers, while Tinian had one. Emily Northrop won the 20 to 29 division after registering 4:42:09, while Alyona Gersonde ruled the 30 to 39 division with her 5:24:23. Tinian's Kimberlyn King-Hinds got the top honors in the 40 to 49 after submitting 4:20:13, while Japan and China split the last two categories with Kumiko Nakamura (4:51:44) and Suhua Feng (6:25:01) prevailing in the 50 to 59 and over 60 divisions, respectively.

In the men's field, three Saipan residents placed first in their respective age groups with Rommel Buenaflor (4:00:55) winning the 40 to 49 division, Xander Kahn (5:17:34) topping the 30 to 39 group, and Teng Zhang (5:15:39) lording it over in the 15 to 19 class. Japan's Yoshinori Chitake (4:06:21) and China's Yanfeng Yin (4:04:16) and Yinbao Sun (4:13:50) were the other age group champions in the second longest race last weekend.

2017-2018 CCPSA Volleyball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy 1's Steven Balakrishna, right, and Mt. Carmel School 1's Jeremiah Diaz joust during the second set of their title game in the middle school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Friday at the GCA court in Navy Hill.



Mt. Carmel School 1's Jeremiah Diaz and Merrick Toves attempts to block Grace Christian Academy 1's Steven Balakrishna.

Mt. Carmel School 1's Merrick Toves tosses the ball.

Mt. Carmel School 1's Richard Steele goes for an overhand serve.

A Mt. Carmel School 1 player serves.

Grace Christian Academy 1's Sam Ryu goes up for a spike, while teammate Kat Saures looks on.

Grace Christian Academy 1 players and coach Caesar Libut huddle during a break in their title match versus Mt. Carmel School 1.

Mt. Carmel School 1's Fiona Bucalig, right, receives a serve from Grace Christian Academy 1's Karina Dilse, while the former's teammate Richard Steele steps in to provide help.

Woods ties for second, Casey wins at Valspar

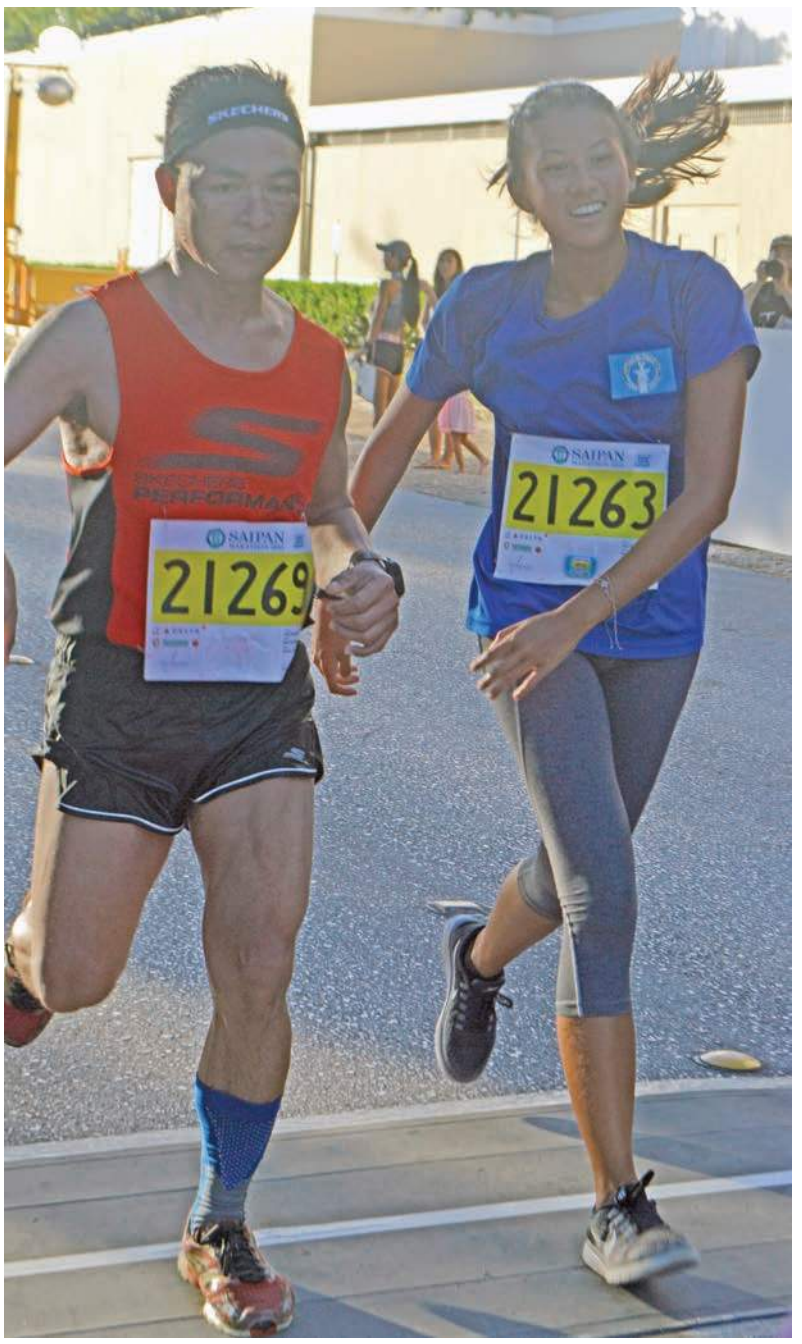
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lakers snap 7-game losing skid against Cavs

PAGE 25

Saipan runners show way



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Though outnumbered by off-island participants, Saipan runners still stood out after making it to the podium and earning age group wins in last Saturday's 2019 Saipan Marathon.

In the half marathon race, Saipan had a 1-2 finish in the women's division with veteran Noriko Jim crossing the finish line first and youth runner Tania Tan coming in at second. Jim, the many-time 10K champion of the same event, opted for a longer race this year and was successful after completing the course, which started and ended at AMP via Beach Road with a turnaround point at Pacific Islands Club, in 1:45:39.

Tan clocked in at 1:50:48 to place ahead of two tough runners Hyun Ju Kim (1:51:10) of Korea and Xue Xiao (1:54:53) of China. Rounding out the Top 6 (overall rankings in women's) who were honored at the awards ceremony last Saturday's night at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan were two more Saipan residents—Chiharu Sato (1:55:27) and Sarah Vanderwal (1:56:48).

In the men's division, Ronald Villafria made the cut in the Top 6 after reaching the finish line at the 1:37:05 mark. Japan's Genta Saito ruled the men's half marathon after submitting 1:22:48, while perennial XTERRA and Tagaman participant Aleksandr Dorovskikh of Russia was ranked second following his 1:25:15. Completing the Top 6 are Japan's Tooru Kase (1:28:00) and South Korea's Il Hoe Koo (1:29:03), and Jo Min Woo (1:35:34).

In the age group category, Tania's mother, Lydia, was the top finisher in the women's 50 to 59 division after capping the 21.09K race in 2:00:17. Lydia recorded the fastest time among the age group champions, finishing ahead of 20 to 29 winner Misaki Seumasu (2:01:16) of Japan.

Vianny Mettao was the other Saipan runner who won a division title, as the 11-year-old ruled

See SAIPAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tania Tan, right, smiles as she completes the half marathon event in last Saturday's Saipan Marathon. She was joined in the finish line by coach and fellow half marathon runner Ronald Villafria.

TanHoldings, Kanoa coast past opponents

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club's Oliver Fajardo, right, tries to dribble past a Matansa FC defender during their boys U15 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club regained its bearings and walloped Shirley's FC, while Kanoa also posted an easy win over Paire in the boys U15 division matches in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

TanHoldings, which fell to MP United in Week 4, 0-3, vented its ire on Shirley's, scoring eight goals each in the first and second half for the lopsided win, 16-2.

Taka Borja and Kohtaro Goto were unstoppable for TanHoldings, as they each tallied four goals with the latter dropping all his shots in succession in a span of seven minutes. Goto made his first in the 61 st minute and the last three in the 62nd, 67th, and 68th. Borja closed out for TanHoldings with his fourth goal coming just a few seconds after Goto also recorded his fourth, while the former's three other goals all came in the first half.

Ezekiel Canape, Aloyzeus Angeles, and Luis Claridades added two goals each, while Jancee Famularcano and Sherwin Dale Villanueva chipped in one apiece in TanHoldings' demolition of Shirley's. The losing squad got its pair of goals from Gabriel Arkoh and Rakib Hassan in the 61st and 65th minute.

In the first game, Kanoa eased past Paire, 6-1.

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26

'Boom' to defend title vs Russian

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez will be making his second defense of the 145-lb title belt when he faces Andrei "The Venus Project" Zaitsev in the featured main event in Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown set on April 27 at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Alvarez (6-1, 3 knockouts) got the featherweight crown when he knocked out former champ Robert Wusstig in Trench Warz 18: Rock and Rumble in December 2014 and avenged the loss of his cousin, Shane, to the fighter out of Guam. Wusstig (7-10, 2 KOs) defeated Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (12-5, 3 KOs) by split decision in Trench Warz 15: Supremacy on Dec. 16, 2011 to clinch the

See 'BOOM' on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez works the bag in this file photo while training at the TrenchTech Gym in Garapan. Alvarez will be making his second defense of the featherweight title against Russian Andrei "The Venus Project" Zaitsev in next month's Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown.